

## Government to let Murdoch bid for 'Times' go ahead

Mr Rupert Murdoch was given clearance yesterday to start securing union acceptance of his terms for taking over "The Times", "The Sunday Times" and the three supplements. MPs were told the Government had agreed to the transfer of the titles to News International without reference to the monopolies commission.

## Minister lays down eight conditions

By Hugh Noyes  
Parliamentary Correspondent  
Westminster

The Government has agreed to the transfer of Times Newspapers to Mr Rupert Murdoch's News International without reference to the monopolies commission. But in clearing Mr Murdoch to embark on securing within three weeks the agreement of the trade unions to his terms for taking over "The Times", "The Sunday Times" and the three supplements, Mr John Biffen, Secretary of State for Trade, has laid down eight stringent conditions.

Opening the emergency debate in the Commons yesterday on the question of referring the proposed purchase to the monopolies commission, Mr Biffen told the House that the conditions relating to editorial independence would be incorporated into the Articles of Association of the Times Newspapers company, and a change in the relevant articles would be required in future require his consent.

That requirement would be backed up by the sanctions provided for in the Fair Trading Act, 1973. In certain circumstances a breach of some of the conditions would be a criminal offence, liable on conviction, to imprisonment or to a fine or to both.

The three-hour debate ended with the Commons approving the Government's decision by 281 votes to 239, a majority of 42 for allowing the transfer to go ahead.

Five Conservative backbenchers defied the Government three-line whip, and voted with Labour. They were Mr Jonathan Aitken (Thames, East); Mr Peter Bottomley (Greenwich, Woolwich, West); Sir Hugh Fraser (Stafford and Stone); Mr Barry Forster (Birmingham and Edgbaston, West); and Mr Delwyn Williams (Montgomery). More than 100 MPs did not vote.

The conditions laid down by the government are:

1. The newspapers are to be published as separate entities.
2. Future disposals are to be subject to the consent of a majority of the independent national directors of Times Newspapers Holdings Ltd.
3. The number of the independent directors is to be increased from four to six and the appointment of any independent national directors in the future is not to be made without the approval of the existing independent national directors.
4. Editors shall not be appointed nor dismissed without the approval of the majority of the independent national directors.
5. The editor of each newspaper shall retain control over any political comment published in his newspaper and, in particular, shall not be subject to any restraint or inhibition in expressing opinion or in reporting news that might directly or indirectly conflict with the opinions or interests of any of the newspaper's proprietors.
6. Instructions to journalists shall be given only by the editor or those to whom he has delegated authority.
7. Subject to any annual budget for editorial space and expenditure, the editor shall retain control over the appointment, disposition and dismissal of journalists on his newspaper and of all other content of his newspaper.
8. Disputes between the editors and the directors of the companies are to be settled by the independent national directors.

As Labour MPs and some Conservative backbenchers voiced their dismay at Mr Biffen's decision not to refer the matter to the monopolies commission, the Secretary of State told the House that he faced the possibility that insistence on an investigation would risk closure of the Times titles, with 4,000 redundancies and the danger of permanent closure. After earnest consideration and to avoid disruption and uncertainty Mr Biffen said he had concluded that he should give his consent to the transfer, subject to the conditions.

With most Conservative MPs clearly behind the Government's decision, Mr Aitken was one of the few voices of dissent from the Tory benches. He spoke of widespread anxiety about the takeover and suggested that Mr Biffen might have acted in an incorrect manner. The managing director of Associated Newspapers had indicated to him that his company was likely to test in the courts the decision not to refer the matter to the commission.

From the Labour front bench, Mr John Smith, opposition spokesman on trade, outlined the concern of Labour MPs, saying that such a concentration of newspaper power was unprecedented. He said the purchase was probably unprecedented.

But Mr Biffen soon made clear that the issue for him was whether a reference to the commission would endanger the future of the two newspapers because of the impossibility of completing an inquiry within the three-week timescale given to Mr Murdoch to complete satisfactory negotiations with the unions.

What he weighed most heavily with him was the conclusion of Sir Godfrey Le Juesus, chairman of the monopolies commission, that in view of the possible scope of the inquiry and the statutory requirements concerning the report, completion could not be promised under eight weeks.

Murdoch statement: Mr Murdoch said last night: "We are all delighted and grateful for Mr Biffen's decision. The survival of The Times and The Sunday Times now depends solely on the agreement being reached with unions and changes to work practices. A good state of mind made to these negotiations but a tremendous amount remains to be done in the next two weeks."

Mr John Whittington-Ingram, a director of Associated, said that a misunderstanding had arisen during a conversation between Mr Aitken and Mr R. W. Shields, managing director of Associated.

New disputes procedure and text of Biffen statement, page 2  
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## Trident force unlikely to get fifth submarine

By Peter Heennessy

A fifth submarine for the Trident strategic nuclear force has become a hidden casualty of pressure on the defence budget.

Though no public announcement will be made before 1983, it has become clear in Whitehall that the "fifth boat option", as it is called, is dead in all but name.

The extra cost it would incur, between £675m and £750m on top of the £4,500m to £5,000m earmarked for the procurement of a four-boat Trident submarine squadron, means that nothing short of an unexpectedly vigorous upturn in the economy would enable the Government to go ahead and build it.

The United States Government will not need to be told formally for another two years that the Thatcher administration has dropped its option on a fifth boat and will not therefore be requiring the additional missiles, launchers, navigation and fire control systems that would have been provided by American manufacturers.

Abandonment of a fifth vessel for the Trident force, which is intended to replace the Polaris submarine squadron in the early 1990s and to carry the British nuclear deterrent into the 2020s, will have both political and strategic consequences.

The "fifth boat lobby" has been quite strong inside the defence community, though it now seems resigned to losing.



Divers cheer: Mr James Tucker, aged 27, from Port Elizabeth, South Africa, and Mr Philip Robinson, aged 31, from Bradford, the two divers rescued from the North Sea last week, celebrating yesterday in Aberdeen after spending several days in a decompression chamber. They described their 10-hour battle against the cold when they were trapped more than 400ft beneath

the sea, after the lifeline on their diving bell snapped. Their rescue last Wednesday was the first time divers had been transferred from one bell to another under water—a so-called "wet transfer". At a showing of a film of the rescue yesterday it was said the technology which had made the manoeuvre successful was probably available only in the North Sea.

## 500 feared lost from Java Sea ferry boat

Jakarta, Jan 27.—More than 500 men, women and children were missing tonight after a blazing Indonesian passenger ferry sank in a storm in the Java Sea, hundreds of miles from land.

A Government spokesman said that more than 500 people who were on board the Tampomas II, 6,139 tons, had been rescued in the area which is 300 miles north east of Jakarta.

Officials expressed grave concern for the lives of the missing people because at least 13 rescue ships had searched all night for survivors.

The inter-island ferry, blazing since early yesterday, went down by the stern at 12.45 pm. A search and rescue operation was under way in the area which is 300 miles north east of Jakarta.

Mr J. E. Habibie, spokesman for the Sea Communications Ministry, said on national television that rescue ships had picked up 525 passengers, 29 crew and 12 bodies, but about 570 passengers and crew were missing.

He said he was not sure whether those rescued included 149 people who jumped into the sea soon after the blaze broke out. They were picked up by another Indonesian ferry, the Sangihe, but the rest of the passengers stayed on board.

When the Tampomas II left Jakarta for Ujung Pandang in south Sulawesi it was carrying 1,054 passengers, 82 crew and dozens of vehicles.

Mr Habibie said that at first it had appeared that the flames were being brought under control, but the Sangihe suddenly reported that the fire had blazed up again and the ferry was sinking.

About 40 minutes later it started sinking with hundreds of men, women, and children jumping for their lives into the rough sea.—Reuters



## Strike wave gathers momentum in Poland

Warsaw, Jan 27.—Industrial workers, coal miners, farmers, and students staged strikes and protests in Poland today and threatened further action as pressure mounted on the authorities for a new initiative to break the social unrest.

The demands made by the strikers went far beyond the issue of free Saturdays.

Workers in Bielsko Biala began a new indefinite general strike demanding the dismissal of local government officials.

All main plants were closed including a Fiat car factory, employing 11,000 men.

In Lodz, workers held a demonstration for three hours and transport was stopped for one hour as part of a nationwide campaign to force the authorities to keep the promises made to strikers last summer.

At least 100,000 workers in Katowice and coal miners in the Bytom region also struck for four hours. Work stopped in more than 70 mines and factories in Bytom.

In Rzeszow, headquarters of a campaign for the legalization of abortion, the Solidarity trade union leader, conferred with farmers about coordinated strike action.

Fifteen farmers in Swidnica, south-west Poland, began a hunger strike in a church today to press demands for the registration of Rural Solidarity.—Reuters

## One person in 10 without work as jobless total jumps by 103,000

By David Blake  
Economics Editor

The underlying level of unemployment went up by 103,000 in January to reach 2,236,000 (9.5 per cent of the workforce). Sharp rises in the number of people seasonally out of work and the number of school leavers without a job made earlier predictions by Mr James Prior, Secretary of State for Employment, that the month would see an "appalling" increase come true.

One person in 10 in the labour force is now out of a job, and total unemployment rose by 175,222 to 2,411,452.

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## NEC clash today after Mr Rodgers quits the Shadow Cabinet

By Michael Hasfield  
Political Reporter

Mr Michael Foot, leader of the Labour Party, who is struggling to maintain party unity, was last night having to counsel his resignation of Mr William Rodgers from the Shadow Cabinet and his replacement by Mr Wedgwood Benn.

He will also face the possibility today of a bitter dispute inside the party's national executive committee, which could lead to the resignation of Mr Shirley Williams.

Mr Benn automatically succeeds Mr Rodgers because he was the runner-up in the Parliamentary Labour Party election last night when Mr Benn lost to Mr Foot.

The party leader faces a dilemma in finding Mr Benn a role and one that is not made easier by the fact that they clashed at a meeting of the PLP earlier in the day before Mr Rodgers's resignation was known.

Mr Foot accused Mr Benn of spreading myths about the party's last election manifesto and presenting a "caricature" of the last Labour Government.

His report came after Mr Benn had told the meeting that there should be more "collective leadership" and that the last election manifesto had been agreed without the knowledge of Mr Benn.

He said that once a Labour Government was in power it would abandon the concept of control and power, allowing the

civil servants to run policy over the heads of ministers. The faction fight inside the party, triggered by the special party conference decision on the leadership issue and the formation of the Council for Social Democracy, created by the so-called gang of four, could erupt into bitterness inside the national executive because of an emergency motion tabled by Mr Benn.

The motion is seen as being designed to put moderate dissent on the table and there was speculation that if it was carried, Mrs Williams would resign.

It was being held, however, that Mr Tom Bradley, another NEC member who has joined the Council for Social Democracy, would decide to stay on and fight inside the executive.

There were suggestions last night that the clash may be headed off by a move not to get the motion debated. Mr Eric Heffer, a left-wing member of the national executive who seconded Mr Benn's motion, was understood to have doubts on whether it really constituted an emergency and should therefore be debated. Others shared the same view.

While the manoeuvrings were taking place there was a surprise among Labour politicians that Mr Rodgers had finally decided to resign from the Shadow Cabinet. The special party conference decision, which gave the trade unions a bigger share than the PLP in electing

Continued on page 2, col 4

## £1 and 20p coins to be introduced by 1983

By David Nicholson-Lord

Inflation and convenience bit a little deeper into British tradition yesterday when the announcement that the £1 coin, after a distinguished but increasingly scruffy career, is to be killed off and replaced by a coin.

The change is due to begin in 1983, a year after the introduction of a new seven-sided 20 pence piece to bridge the pence and 50 pence coin. The £1 coin and note will then run in tandem for several years until the note is phased out.

But in a gesture to monetary traditionalism, the £1 coin will resemble a gold sovereign. It will be the same size as a sovereign, slightly smaller than the present 5 pence piece, and

made of a bright yellow alloy, like the old threepenny-bit. The announcement, made in a Commons written answer by Sir Geoffrey Howe, Chancellor of the Exchequer, was immediately welcomed by Mr Derrick Skinner, director of the Automatic Vending Association of Britain, representing about 200 companies.

Mr Skinner said it would be a "welcome" change, useful for cigarette, food and ticket machines, though less so in garages, because of the escalating price of fuel.

The design of the £1 coin has not been decided, although it will have a "distinctive security edge" to prevent counterfeiting. The 20 pence silver coin, will

have the same diameter of seven-eighths of an inch, but it will be much thinner than the £1.

Inflation, coupled with the spread of vending machines and automation, is the main reason for the change. The pound is now worth 30 pence compared with its 1971 value, with the result that notes are handled more often and with less respect.

Their life expectancy, measurable in years when they were introduced just before the First World War, has thus dropped to about nine months. In contrast, only 270 million £1 coins are expected to be minted initially. Each should last 40 years and contribute a

long-term public expenditure saving.

Numismatists greeted the announcement as a major upheaval, pointing out that only once before has £1 been struck in anything other than gold. That was in similar parlous times when Charles I lost the Royal Mint in August 1649, and was forced into borrowing from supporters of silver plate for melting.

Meanwhile, the Bank of England emphasized that the £1 note, except for a "nickel" appearance, is not a coin. The Napoleonic wars, has only been a permanent feature since the panic run on gold of August, 1914, and the drying up of the supply of sovereigns.

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## Blunt Reagan warning to kidnappers

Kidnappers of American diplomats in future can expect swift retribution from the United States, President Reagan said when welcoming the returned hostages at the White House. There are limits to America's patience, he declared. An estimated quarter of a million people lined the streets cheering the convoy of buses. Earlier, in their first public appearance at a West Point press conference some seemed anxious to play down reports of ill-treatment at the hands of their captors.

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## Day strike threat by civil servants

A national one-day strike by 500,000 civil servants is being planned for March 6 by union leaders intent on breaking through the Cabinet's 6 per cent public service wage rise limit. Other industrial action to disrupt key government business is likely to follow.

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## Onshore oil search

One of eight licences for onshore oil and gas exploration granted by Mr David Howell, the Secretary of State for Energy, is for an area in Fife, which includes the Royal and Ancient golf course at St Andrews. Other licences include areas adjoining the north Yorkshire coast.

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## Prison action grows

Prison officers at Ashford Remand Centre and at Gloucester have resumed industrial action over the meals break dispute as a result of the High Court ruling that the leaders of the Prison Officers Association had acted unlawfully in instructing members to suspend industrial action.

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## Doctors pay move

Incentive payments to doctors and nurses in inner-city areas with poor medical services have been proposed by the British Medical Association in a move to halt the falling quality of care.

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## Protests expected at college proposal

Local authorities are expected to make strong protests over government plans to remove polytechnics and higher education colleges from their control, but many will be reluctant to have a heavy financial burden lifted. The proposal involves the establishment of a new national body responsible for allocating government funds.

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## Michael Schembry is incurable

It's a bit of a bind, he says. Michael Schembry is a very full life. He worked hard, loved walking and running, music and travel. Then he contracted multiple sclerosis—and came to us.

We have over 270 severely disabled and incurable patients to care for. We cannot cure them. But we can help them. Skilled care has helped Michael learn to live with his illness. It's a bit of a bind, he says. "But I knew I had to come to terms with it."

We, too, need help. We are not part of the Health Service and we rely a lot on the generosity of the compassionate people who help us with a donation, a deed of covenant or a bequest.

THE ROYAL HOSPITAL FOR INCURABLES (Furness Hospital)  
Dept. T, Furness Hospital, London SW15 2SW. ROH  
Patrons: HRH The Queen and HRH The Queen Mother  
Director: A. Apperand-Paterson  
Air Commodore D. E. Dixon, OBE, DFC, AFC

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# Leaders of 500,000 civil servants plan national strike in March to break Cabinet's 6% pay rise limit

year, its findings have been set aside by the Government.

Mr Campbell Christie, deputy general secretary of the NCGU, said last night: "All the indications are that there will be support for action if the Government sticks to 6 or 7 per cent for the Civil Service."

The unions are due to agree on a joint pay claim on February 5, and they have set a three-week limit for negotiations. If a satisfactory pay settlement operative from April 1 has not been agreed by February 26, the signal will be given to go ahead with industrial action.

This bad news for the Government came as the pay increase coincided with agreement being reached on 71 per cent rises for the largest single group of public service workers. Union leaders of about one million local government manual workers signed a deal yesterday giving a flat rate increase of 54 pence a week for the winter holiday. Average earnings will rise from £92 to £99 a week.

## Ferries stay in port as talks fail

The company said, however, that it was not prepared to resume paying the crew since it would remain subject to continuing guerrilla action despite the union's local agreement was reached.

The union's disputes committee yesterday decided not to grant dispensation for vessels on banana trade routes to and from the Windward Islands in the West Indies, despite appeals from the governments of St Lucia and St Vincent.

Crews aboard the Geest Land and Geest Tide at Barry, South Wales, resumed the union yesterday to have voted against resuming work.

## Biffen consent to transfer of papers

be appointed or dismissed without the approval of the majority of the independent national directors of INL.

(II) The Editor of each newspaper shall retain control over any political comment published in his newspaper. In particular, shall not be subject to any censorship or inhibition in expressing opinion or in reporting news that might offend the Government or the opinions or interest of any of the newspaper proprietors (within the meaning of Section 57 of the Fair Trading Act 1973) or *The Times* or *The Sunday Times*.

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(IV) Subject only to any annual budgetary control and any expenditure determined by the directors of INL, the Editor of each newspaper shall retain control over the selection, dismissal and dismissal of journalists on his newspaper and of all other content of his newspaper except that the Government may determine the Editor's rights may be limited to the right to refuse to publish any advertisement and where in his newspaper or on his newspaper in general, or, any advertisement in particular is to appear.

(V) Any dispute between the Editor of each newspaper and the Directors of INL is to be referred to the independent national directors of INL or any two of them, or to any independent national directors as they may themselves determine; and a decision shall be final and binding.

5 The Articles of Association of INL shall after alteration to conform with any foregoing requirements, shall not be altered in any way which affects or which may affect, the rights of the members, except with the written consent of the Secretary of State.

John Biffen  
Secretary of State

27 January 1981.

## Fresh disputes procedure is put to unions

# New conditions sale directly e

By Fred Emery  
Political Editor

Sir Denis Hamilton, chairman and editor-in-chief of Times Newspapers Holdings Ltd, said that the conditions that Mr Rupert Murdoch had accepted were stronger than his previous undertakings and, for the first time, were directly enforceable.

Such enforcement would not necessarily have been recommended by the Monopolies and Mergers Commission. No conditions had been imposed in the case of the Thomson acquisition in 1969.

Mr Harold Evans, editor of *The Sunday Times* said: "I would have preferred our independent *Sunday Times* consortium, but no editor or journalist would have accepted wider guarantees of editorial independence than those Mr Murdoch has accepted, now entrenched by the Secretary of State."

The criminal law sanctions for breach of the conditions are laid down in section 62 of the Fair Trading Act, 1973, and, on conviction on indictment, are imprisonment for up to two years or a fine, or both.

However, Mr John Biffen, the Secretary of State for Trade, mentioned in the debate only two of the conditions will be subject to criminal law, together with the requirement that the company's articles of association not be changed without written consent of the Secretary of State.

The legal instrument binding Mr Murdoch, according to the Department of Trade, is to be the statement of consent to the purchase by Mr Biffen, which he issued yesterday. It will be the subject of an exchange of letters between Mr Biffen and Mr Murdoch.

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# Fog defeats Army's anti-tank missile

From Henry Stanhope  
Defence Correspondent  
Middle Wallop, Hampshire

The Army's latest anti-tank missile was defeated by its worst enemy yesterday — the European weather. But officers defended its ability to penetrate Russian armour, if not the swirling fog which forced the cancellation of its first public demonstration on Salisbury Plain.

The Ministry of Defence is afraid the missile, best known by its acronym TOW, to about 80 Lynx helicopters in the British Army of the Rhine (BAOR) to upgrade BAOR's defences against Soviet tanks, which outnumber those of Nato in central Europe by almost three to one.

Yesterday's press demonstration was also marking the start of what the Army has described as highly successful acceptance trials which have been conducted during the past three months by the Army Air Corps from its head-



**A TOW missile being loaded on to a Lynx helicopter yesterday by the Army Air Corps.**

quarters at Middle Wallop. Training courses for helicopter crews are about to begin and the first Lynx/TOW flight will enter service in Detmold, West Germany, towards the end of next month.

At £2,500 a shot, the Army claims that TOW is actually cheaper than the obsolescent SS11 missile which it is replacing. It is also faster, more accurate and has a greater range of up to nearly two and a half miles, and is simpler to fire.

## Dissenting MPs have to explain

By Robin Young  
and John Withers

Several Labour MPs who have announced their support for the Council for Social Democracy will be called to account by their constituency parties this week. These include calls for the resignations of Mr Tom Ellis (Wrexham), Mr John Horam (Gateshead, West) and Mr Neville Sandelands (London, Hayes and Hactington).

Dr David Owen is to attend a regular meeting of his Plymouth, Devonport constituency Labour party and the meeting is expected to be stormy. One member, Mr Ronald Lemlin, has given notice of his intention to call for Dr Owen's resignation.

Mr William Rodgers's con-

## NEC turmoil over Benn motion

Continued from page 1

the party leader, was the final straw.

The issue of mandatory re-election, referred to by Mr Rodgers, is also expected to be the centre of a heated debate inside the national executive today.

The left wing is demanding that general management committees must draw up a short list of more than one, even if they do not wish to do so. Moderates interpret that as a potential threat to sitting Labour MPs.

But the crucial issue will be on Mr Benn's motion which states that "the committee and each of its members pledges itself wholeheartedly and without reservation to work together for the return of a Labour Government at the next general election through the election of Labour candidates to the committee."

Mr Benn's motion is standing in support of the election manifesto that will be presented at the time.

## Union move to left in Barnsley worries man

From Ronald Kershaw  
Barnsley.

Events last weekend threw into sharp focus the curious relationship between the trade unions and the Labour Party. The move to the left at all levels of the party hierarchy, and the influence the unions have exerted left many traditional Labour supporters bewildered to say the least.

Nowhere has the change been more apparent than in the Yorkshire region, and nowhere have allegiances changed more rapidly than in the Barnsley constituency of Mr Roy Mason, Labour MP for the past 21 years.

The National Union of Mine workers has packed constituency party meetings with union delegates and taken over the constituency party. Only this week has one union, the Union of Shop, Distributive and Allied Workers, seen fit to challenge the grip the miners have, and has asked for an inquiry into numbers of delegates and affiliated members.

Barnsley has become an example of what many consider to be the ills of constituency parties throughout the country. Bands of militant members have been drawn together by a nucleus of left-wing extremists and they have demonstrated practically set about ousting more moderate party colleagues from positions of responsibility.

The prize is a reselection conference at which sitting members will be asked to undertake to further the ideals of their constituency masters or lose their backing or trade union sponsorship. At Barnsley Mr Mason has been an NUM member since the by-election of 1953.

## Skinhead revenge raid led to race riot, jury told

A race riot broke out in Woolwich, London, when armed skinheads, chanting "Sieg Heil" mounted a revenge raid on calm protesters in the streets of the Central Criminal Court was told yesterday.

Between 30 and 100 white youths, some of them with their heads shaved almost bald, attacked about 100 to 150 coloured people in a cinema queue, the court heard. The judge, in the prosecution, said, "When the coloured people took refuge in the Odeon cinema, the skinheads threw £800 of glass in the building."

She added that a solid phalanx of youths, shouting: "We are going to kill the coloured one, engulfed every in sight."

Cars were damaged and Mr. Ashtok Lekeah, a Pakistani who

## Many dams in dangerous state, magazine says

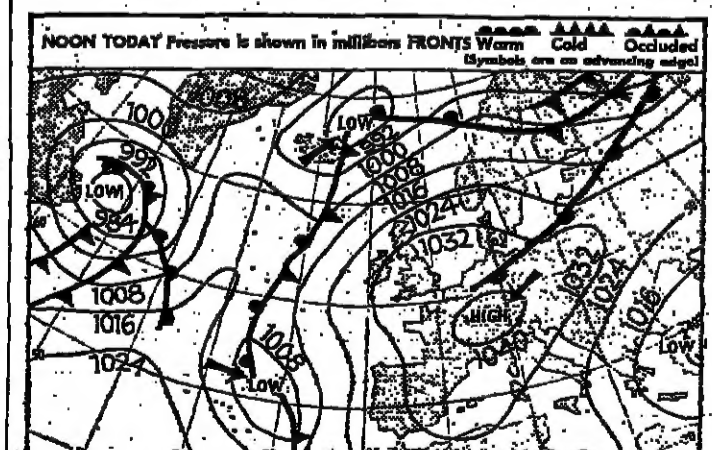
Too many of Britain's dams and reservoirs are falling into a dangerous state of disrepair, according to a report in *New Civil Engineer*, the magazine of the Institute of Civil Engineers.

The report described a "disturbing chapter of ignorance and neglect by owners—particularly private owners who control the oldest dams".

It said the danger was getting worse as dams continued to age and owners became more reluctant to spend money on maintenance.

The report said the 1975 Reservoirs Act was supposed to improve matters but the Department of the Environment had

## Weather forecast and recordings



# Today

Sun rises : Sun sets :  
 7.45 am 4.43 pm  
 Moon rises : Moon sets :  
 11.40 am 11.20 am

Last quarter : 4.19 am

Lighting up : 5.13 pm to 7.14 am.  
 High water : London Bridge, 6.48 am.  
 Mean : 6.72 pm. 10.30 am.  
 Ave. min. : 11.57 am. 10.30 pm.  
 4.03 am. 5.8m; 4.37 pm. 5.3m.  
 Bull, 11.26 am. 4.37 pm. 11.44 pm.  
 4.34 pm. 4.4m. 4.18 am. 7.4m :  
 1.37 m. 7.4m.

1m = 3.2808ft

Pressure will remain high over the British Isles.

Weather : S. to S.W. to mid-north; London, S.E. central S. E. central N. England, East. Angle, Midlands : Fog patches, dense in some early and late, some bright to sunny intervals; wind mainly S light; max temp 7°C (45°F) but 10°C (50°F) in sunnier parts.

Channel Islands, SW. NW England, Wales, Lake District, Isle of Man, SW Scotland, Glasgow, M. Ireland : Mainly dry, sunnier intervals; S. to S.W. Night or moderate; max temp 10° to 12°C (50° to 54°F).

NE England, Borders, Edinburgh, Aberdeen, Central Scotland, N. Scotland, Highlands, Moray Firth, NE Scotland : Mainly or fog patches early and late, sunny periods developing; S. to S.W. moderate; max temp 9° to 11°C (48° to 52°F).

Argyll, NW Scotland, Orkney, Shetland : Mostly cloudy with outbreaks of drizzle, some sunny intervals; S. to S.W. fresh or strong; max temp 9°C (48°F).

Outlook for tomorrow and Friday : Mainly dry but foggy at times in England and Wales; rain with some rain in Scotland and N. Ireland.

Sea passages : S North Sea. Straits of Dover, English Channel (E) : Wind SW, light or

## WEATHER REPORTS YESTERDAY MIDDAY

C, cloud; d, drizzle; f, fair; fg, fog; r, rain; s, sun.

Algeria	C	15	24	14	24	14	24	14	24
Algiers	C	15	24	14	24	14	24	14	24
Amsterdam	C	15	24	14	24	14	24	14	24
Antwerp	C	15	24	14	24	14	24	14	24
Athens	C	15	24	14	24	14	24	14	24
Bombay	C	15	24	14	24	14	24	14	24
Buenos Aires	C	15	24	14	24	14	24	14	24
Calcutta	C	15	24	14	24	14	24	14	24
Canton	C	15	24	14	24	14	24	14	24
Cebu	C	15	24	14	24	14	24	14	24
Colon	C	15	24	14	24	14	24	14	24
Hankow	C	15	24	14	24	14	24	14	24
Hongkong	C	15	24	14	24	14	24	14	24
Kobe	C	15	24	14	24	14	24	14	24
London	C	15	24	14	24	14	24	14	24
Lyons	C	15	24	14	24	14	24	14	24
Manila	C	15	24	14	24	14	24	14	24
Medan	C	15	24	14	24	14	24	14	24
Meerut	C	15	24	14	24	14	24	14	24
Moscow	C	15	24	14	24	14	24	14	24
Odessa	C	15	24	14	24	14	24	14	24
Peking	C	15	24	14	24	14	24	14	24
Rangoon	C	15	24	14	24	14	24	14	24
Shanghai	C	15	24	14	24	14	24	14	24
Singapore	C	15	24	14	24	14	24	14	24
Sourabaya	C	15	24	14	24	14	24	14	24
Tientsin	C	15	24	14	24	14	24	14	24
Yokohama	C	15	24	14	24	14	24	14	24

By George Clark  
Political Correspondent

New arrangements to enable MPs to have greater control over public expenditure are "the granting of supply" as being "considered by a Select Committee on Procedure (Supply)" which began work this morning.

The committee, under the chairmanship of Mr Teren Higgins, was asked to recommend a new system for making backbenchers feel that they have a say in which the millions of pounds of Government spending can be authorized "on no" without examination of the items of expenditure.

The former Leader of the House, Mr Norman St John Stevas, Conservative MP for South Devon, said that it was vital that the way the House spends was in need of radical review.

The Select Committee on Procedure in the 1977 session declared that "it is essential that the House exercise detailed control over public expenditure in any form, the formal sense of voting on annual estimates and approving the Consolidated Fund and Appropriation Bills."

Mr A. Bradshaw, the Clerk Assistant to the Commons, yesterday outlined the history of Parliament's assertion of power over the Executive, and suggested that the House could take back some of its control over items of government spending.



# Let's assume you don't wish to look like everyone else.

It's nothing unusual these days to be asked to pay £11,000 for a new motor car.

But apparently it's asking a lot more if, in so doing, you wish to separate yourself from the great mass of 2.8 litre look-alikes which inhabit the company car park.

## Identity crisis averted.

Glance again at our saloon. The Royale could hardly be described as look-alike, neither does it ask you to pay any more, nor are there masses of them.

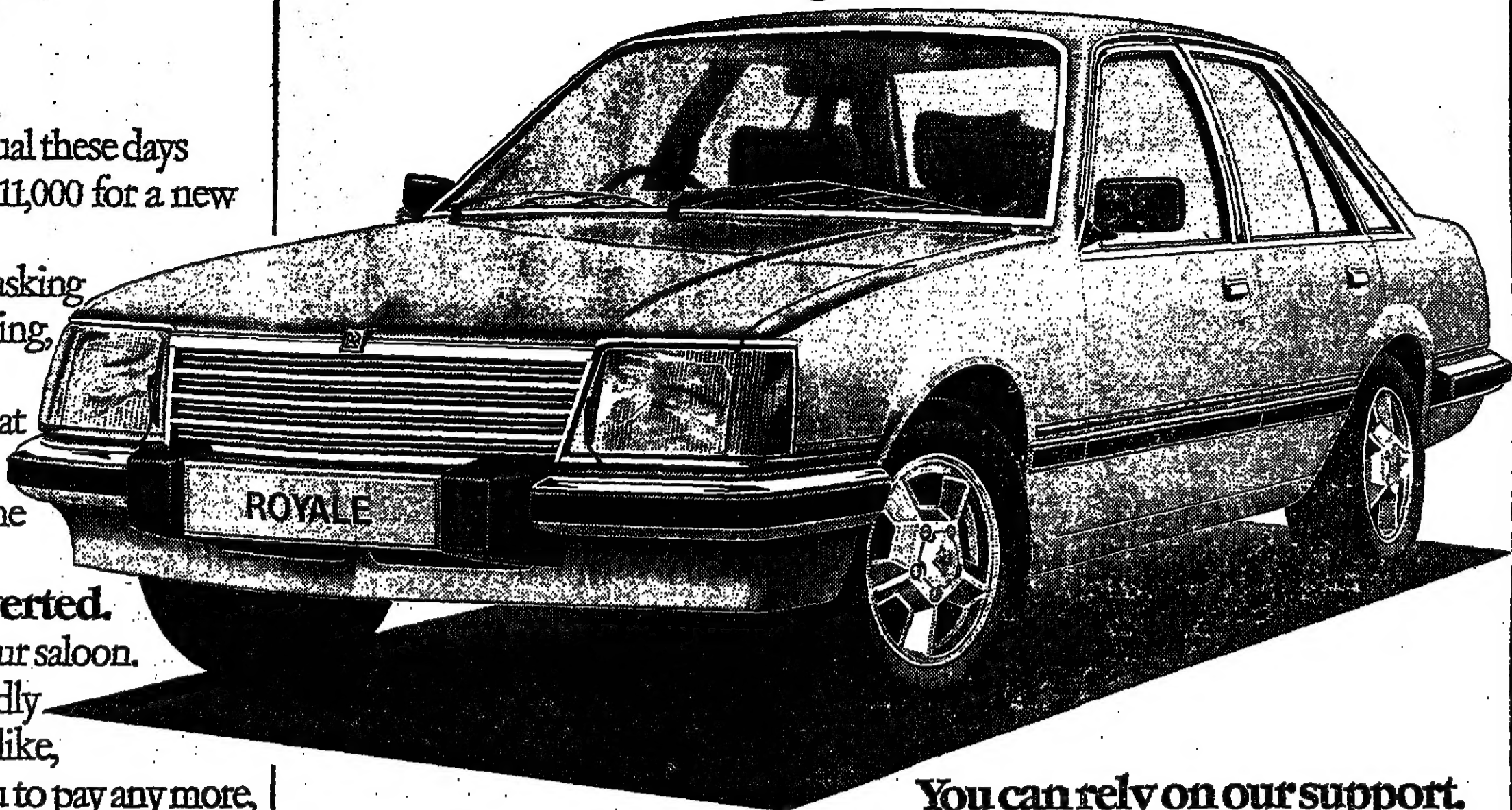
The engine delivers all you might expect from 6 cylinders. We'll just mention a top speed of 115 mph.\*

And because the engine develops maximum torque at only 3400 rpm, you never get the feeling it's overstretching itself, no matter how much of a hurry you're in.

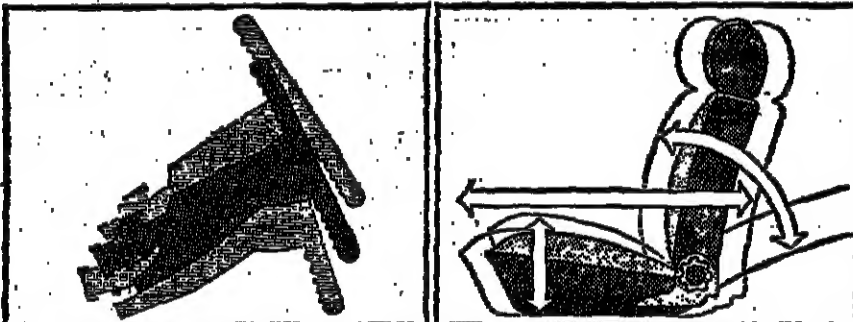
## You'll feel good inside.

The interior appointments could well be termed 'by appointment'. The doors lock centrally, the sun roof is steel and the radio/stereo cassette player has not two speakers but three.

The tinted windows are electrically operated as is the release for the saloon boot.



Each seat offers the comforts of crushed velour plus its own fully adjustable head restraint.



## All directors were not created equal.

Perhaps most important, the driver's seat adjusts for height as well as for reach and rake, and the steering wheel is tiltable. A couple of minor corrections could make you not only a more comfortable driver, but a much safer driver.

## You can rely on our support.

You can see that the Royale has a beautifully aerodynamic shape.

What you can't see is the brilliantly engineered suspension that supports it and you to create a ride of quite joyful smoothness.

Also what the eagle-eyed amongst you won't have failed to notice is that the Coupé in our picture sports a '3 litre petrol injection' badge. (So does the Saloon, they're our latest additions. Royale 3 litre Saloon: £12,046. Royale 3 litre Coupé: £12,633)\*

Naturally, overall performance is an improvement on our 2.8 litre models.

"And," we hear you say, "2.8 and 3.0 look exactly the same."

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**VAUXHALL**  
**ROYALE**



## HOME NEWS

## Action resumed by prison officers after court ruling

By Peter Evans  
Home Affairs Correspondent

Prison officers at Ashford Remand Centre have resumed industrial action after a High Court judge ruled that the national executive of their association, because of the court decision, had decided not to return to normal working.

Mr Justice Brown-Wilkinson ruled on Friday that the national executive of the Prison Officers' Association had acted unlawfully in instructing members to suspend industrial action. He ordered the union leaders to reinstate the action, but suspended the order for six weeks so that the special conference which had called for the action could be reconvened.

It is understood that the association's special conference would be held soon but did not give a date or venue. The circular is thought to have recommended that the suspension of industrial action should be continued pending further information from the national executive. Eleven branches are still engaged in some form of action over the dispute, which was about payment for meal breaks.

The Home Office has refused to go to arbitration over the claim for payments for meal breaks taken during extra duties. Instead Mr William Whitelaw, the Home Secretary, sees a new duty system as the solution to the dispute.

Mr Whitelaw acted yesterday to cur the prison population by about three hundred, by laying before Parliament an order allowing remission for good behaviour to anyone sentenced for more than five days and up to one month. The present qualifying period of more than one month is arbitrary.

He thinks it is right in principle to apply remission to as many prisoners as possible. The benefit will be felt most at crowded local establishments where short-term prisoners are normally held. The order will come into effect on February 23.

Prison population figures given yesterday showed an increase again after a big fall during the dispute. The January 19 total was 40,278, including those held in emergency accommodation. That had increased to 41,277 yesterday.

But in spite of the confusion following the court case people are still being moved from emergency accommodation to prison.

## Association loses role as provider for homeless

By Our Social Services Correspondent

The Housing Corporation announced yesterday that it is ending the role of the Family Housing Association as a provider of accommodation for the homeless and is making it solely responsible for paying off an accumulated deficit of £925,000.

The decision will mean that about 100 properties which could have provided 200 homes will be sold, about ten staff will be made redundant immediately, and the association will become a housing maintenance and management body.

The decision also means that the main recommendation of a special manager, appointed at the corporation's insistence last September, has been rejected. The special manager recommended that the association should be allowed to continue with a smaller development programme, producing 90 units a year compared with the average of 400 to 500 a year until 1978.

Although the special manager's report did not allocate blame for the association's financial difficulties, it did point out that the Department of the Environment had powers to waive the repayment of grants when properties were sold. That hint has not been taken up by the corporation's board.

The association's financial difficulties arose mainly from a moratorium imposed in 1976 on its building programme by the corporation and the Department of the Environment, when the association was faced with legal action because a proposal to buy an hotel fell through. The association was the case on appeal, but the moratorium continued for nine months, and a second one was imposed when the association, said yesterday that she was disappointed that no responsibility had been accepted by the corporation or the department for the deficit, which she estimated at £850,000. The association would fight for its share of any deficit financing likely to be paid to other associations who were likely to have similar difficulties because of the Government's housing cuts.

The decision had ended the "cat and mouse" game played for the last three years, and meant the association could plan its future, even though it would be restricted.

## Windmill as high as Big Ben for Orkney

By Nicholas Hirst

A windmill, which with its blades vertical will be almost as high as the clock tower of Big Ben, is planned to generate electricity in Orkney in 1983 or 1984.

The £5.6m project is the most ambitious renewable energy scheme yet to be given official support. All but £1m of the cost of the "aerogenerator" will be met by the Department of Energy, with the rest being provided by the North of Scotland Hydro Electric Board.

If successful, the project could go a long way to supplying electricity to the outlying Scottish islands, which, at the moment, are largely supplied by expensive diesel-driven generators.

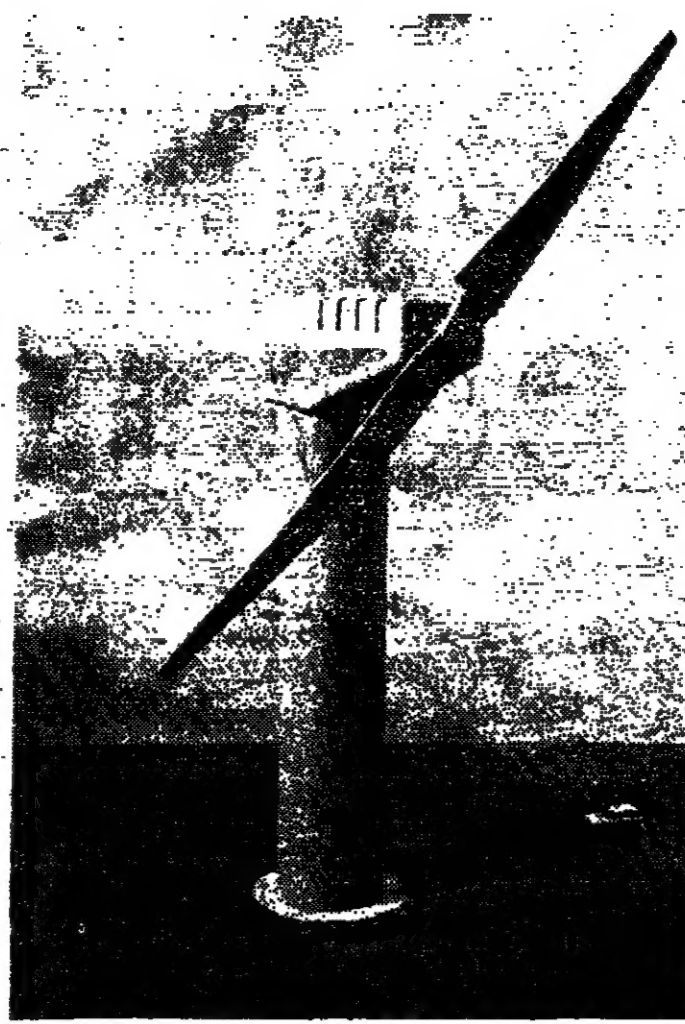
The hydro board tried last year to impose a fuel surcharge on the islanders but was forced to withdraw it in the face of angry protests. As a result, a loan of about £8m is expected on providing electricity to Orkney-Shetland and the Western Isles this year.

Working at its full capacity of three megawatts, the aerogenerator will provide sufficient energy for 1,000 of the 8,000 domestic consumers, which will be fed into the island's grid.

Planning consents for the project are required from the Secretary of State for Scotland and Orkney District Council before she work, expected to start in the spring of 1983, can begin, but no difficulties are expected.

A site has been chosen at Bargar Hill, two miles from the coast, to take best advantage of sea winds. It is remote from habitation.

A smaller machine with a 250 kilowatt capacity is planned to begin operation in October this year to provide experience for the running of the larger generator. Site work for the smaller machine, a twelfth the size of the commercial aerogenerator, is to begin in August.



A model of the 198ft windmill planned for Orkney.

The big machine needs winds of between 15 and 60 mph to function. Those speeds are common in Orkney.

The hydro board has been experimenting with wind power since the 1950s and started operating a 22 kilowatt generator on South Ronaldsay to serve a farm in December. That is 40ft high with 15ft blades.

## Ulster violence shown in decline

From a Staff Reporter

A continued decline in the level of terrorist violence in Northern Ireland over the last year, especially in bombing and shooting incidents, is shown in figures issued yesterday.

However, they do not include the IRA's coordinated bombing campaign on Monday night when six bombs exploded across the province. There are fears that it was the start of a campaign aimed specifically at business property.

In Portadown, Co Armagh, many shops, offices and some homes were badly damaged by a 400lb car bomb.

The new figures released by the Northern Ireland Office show that shooting incidents declined to 139 in the last three months of 1980, compared with 180 in the first three months of the year. Explosions declined from 108 in January to March to 30 in the last quarter.

Ten civilians died, five of them in sectarian and factional assassinations in the last quarter.

Four Army and Ulster Defence Regiment servicemen died between October and December compared with seven at the start of the year and there were no deaths among members of the RUC or its reserve.

Throughout the rest of the year there had been nine such deaths.

Between October and December 115 people were charged with serious "security type offences", eight of them with murder. The figures for the first three months of the year were 166 and 26 respectively.

Paisley appeal: The Rev Ian

Paisley yesterday called on Northern Ireland's unionist parties to bury their differences to fight a common campaign against what he called "the intended sell-out" of Ulster to Dublin by the British Government.

Housing aid: The Nationwide Building Society is to provide £5m for mortgages and improvements in five housing action areas of Belfast, where about 16,000 homes need improvements.

Death after hoax: A woman was killed when an Army bomb squad going to what turned out to be a hoax bomb call early yesterday was in collision with a car outside Strabane, Co Tyrone (the Press Association reports).

She was named by police as Geraldine McSorley, a nurse aged 23, of Newtownstewart.

## GLC to increase next year's rate by 17.6%

By Christopher Warman  
Local Government Correspondent

The Greater London Council is to increase its rate for the coming year by 17.6 per cent, a rise of 21.7p on the present rate of 21.7p, and well above the Government's guidelines on inflation.

Together with the likely increase in the Inner London Education Authority rate precept of 46 per cent, the loss by London authorities of government grant and the expressed intentions of some Labour councils not to reduce their services, this latest indication from the GLC means that rate increases in the London area will be very high, ranging from 20 to 30 per cent.

Mr Richard Brew, deputy leader of the GLC, announcing the proposed increase yesterday, said that the budget was being increased by only 7 per cent, "significantly lower than the current rate of inflation."

The Government allowed in the rate support grant for the year beginning in April an inflation of 6 per cent for pay and 11 per cent for prices, which together make about 7 per cent.

The GLC has been unable to confine its increase to that figure. A further 9 per cent was necessary because some of the council's expenditure last year was met from accumulated balances which are not available this year, and the remaining 2 per cent is caused by the low rate support grant.

The increase is considerably larger than the Conservative administration wanted, particularly as the GLC election takes place in May. Mr Brew emphasized that over the four years of its control, the council's average annual rate rise had been kept to a single figure.

We are continuing our policy of taking the country's need to reduce public expenditure. Bearing in mind the extremely difficult financial times for local government and its ratepayers, we have made every attempt to keep the rate increase to an absolute minimum," he stated.

London has suffered a loss of government grant, which has been transferred to areas outside the main conurbations. The GLC has been particularly badly affected as well by the 18.8 per cent pay settlement for firemen, because that is a level well above the norm and one-third of the council's staff are firemen.

The announcement of a high GLC precept to go with the 46 per cent ILEA increase means that it will be almost impossible for rate increases in inner London to be lower than 20 per cent. Even Kensington and Chelsea, which aims to follow government guidelines, has given a warning of a big increase. The borough has lost government grant, and Mr Nigel Freeman, leader, predicts in the latest newsletter that the increase will be "very substantial indeed."

In the Labour-controlled boroughs of Lambeth and Camden, where increases will be in the order of 50 per cent or more, ratepayers' groups are gathering strength. In Lambeth supplementary rate bills have been burnt at protest meetings, and in Camden a new group has been launched with the intention of making legal action against the council and encouraging people to withhold part of the rate bills.

## IBA chief urges restraint on horror film advertising

By Kenneth Gosling

Commercial for horror films has caused the Independent Broadcasting Authority a few difficulties recently. Lord Thomson of Monifield, chairman of the IBA, said yesterday.

Speaking at a conference on radio advertising control in London, Lord Thomson said there were a lot of people who enjoyed horror films and the IBA would not wish to stop them being advertised. However, there were many viewers and listeners who did not like them and had no wish to see them.

"Because commercials come up unannounced, random and often repetitive within IBA rules, and by reason of the very power which makes them valuable to the advertiser, the commercials should be produced with due regard to the sensitivities of the vast majority of our audience, rather like a U trailer promoting an X certified film."

Lord Thomson said there were those who tried to beat the system; the authority would have no hesitation in rejecting commercial ideas and proposals that tried to mislead or that included "distasteful material likely to offend."

Recently, the IBA has received a number of complaints about the advertising of horror films on radio and television, and it has placed a timing restriction on some so that they can "only be shown or heard during the late evening."

able to the advertiser, the commercials should be produced with due regard to the sensitivities of the vast majority of our audience, rather like a U trailer promoting an X certified film."

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## Man cut racehorse's tail and mane 'for revenge'

From Our Correspondent

Dougan O'Sullivan, aged 20, a labourer, was given a suspended jail sentence and fined £30 at Cloyne District Court, Co Tipperary, yesterday when he pleaded guilty to cutting the tail and mane of Storm Bird, the favourite for the Two Thousand Guineas and the Epsom Derby. The animal was not injured.

The incident occurred at the temporary stables of Vincent O'Brien, a leading trainer, last week.

Mr O'Sullivan said he had attacked the horse because he had a hatred and a grudge against the trainer. Describing Storm Bird as the best horse in Europe, he said he had wanted to injure it but to use it as a way of getting revenge on Mr O'Brien.

Mr O'Sullivan said he was not satisfied with the trainer's treatment of his mother, brother and himself since his father, who had worked with Mr O'Brien all his life, died.

Witnesses told the court that there was no physical injury to the animal. The tail was a foot shorter than it should be and the mane was docked.

Mr O'Sullivan apologized and the magistrate said that because of his good character reference he would give him a two-month suspended sentence.

## Sex bias in tax plans is criticized

Removal of sex discrimination from the income tax system could be deferred indefinitely if proposals contained in the Government's recent consultative document on the taxation of husband and wife are accepted, Lady Lockwood, the chairman of the Equal Opportunities Commission, said yesterday.

She complained that the document failed to explain clearly why the system needed reform and that it did not adequately set out or examine the various options for change.

The present system discriminated between men and women on grounds of sex and marital status and was based on an outdated view of the role of women, Lady Lockwood said.

The Government's preferred proposal, which involves giving married couples the option of being taxed independently but does not do away with the principle of aggregating husband's and wife's incomes, did not overcome the fundamentally objectionable features of the present system.

The Equal Opportunities Commission believed that the individual should be the basic unit for tax purposes. The consultative document's treatment of that issue was inadequate and often arbitrary, Lady Lockwood said.

She was speaking at a conference sponsored by the Institute for Fiscal Studies.

Mr Nicholas Morris, of the Institute for Fiscal Studies, another speaker at the conference, presented calculations to show that abolition of the married man's allowance, so that each earner receives a single person's allowance, would raise £2,600m in extra revenue. That would enable child benefit to be raised to £8.50 a week from its present £4.75.

## Government to back £55m Laker purchase

By Arthur Reed

Although a consortium of British and foreign banks is providing £55m for Sir Freddie Laker, chairman of Laker Airways, to buy three Boeing A300 airbuses, the deal is being backed by the British Government, a parliamentary answer disclosed yesterday.

British Airways, which is a 20 per cent partner in the consortium developing the A300 and the smaller A310, has undertaken to provide interest rate support to the banks financing the Laker deal and will, in turn, be reimbursed by the Government.

That backing will enable Laker Airways to pay for the duration of the loan a fixed interest rate broadly equivalent to that which would have been paid for competitive aircraft from the United States, where the interest rate would have been supported by the United States Government.

The Department of Industry said last night: "The extent of the British taxpayer's commitment will depend on the movement of the interest rate over the whole period of the deal."

The action was being taken under the terms of the Civil Aviation Act, 1949.

Similar interest support arrangements were announced in the Commons in April last year for the purchase by British Overseas Airways, another independent airline, based at Gatwick airport, of six A310s.

Such arrangements are agreed between the partner governments within the Airbus consortium, led by France and West Germany, and are designed to fend off the competition from the aerospace industry in the United States.

The finance for the Laker purchase of three A300s was arranged by Midland Bank International. It came through banks in Britain, France, West Germany, Austria, the United States and Canada, and was over-subscribed.

## "Sus" Bill to be examined by MPs' committee

By Our Political Correspondent

For the first time a House of Commons committee charged with the duty of examining the detail of a government Bill will hear evidence from outside witnesses at three sessions before the Bill proceeds to the normal committee stage.

The committee set up to examine the Criminal Attempts Bill, which deals with a revision of the "sus" laws, will hear evidence from a government minister, a High Court judge and others on the proposals in the Bill.

Three sessions on February 3, 5 and 6 will be devoted to hearing evidence, the witnesses being subject to questions.

Sir Graham Page, Conservative MP for Crosby, a solicitor and a former minister for local government, is chairman of the committee. The minister invited to give evidence is Mr Patrick Mayhew, QC, Minister of State at the Home Office.

## Girl is awarded £240,000 after hospital blunder

Tracy Clark, aged 16, who is paralysed by spinal injuries, won a £240,000 damages award in the High Court, London, yesterday. She is the victim of a hospital blunder four years ago and is confined to a wheelchair.

Miss Clark, of Cowper Avenue, Tilbury, Essex, was awarded the damages against Essex Health Authority, who admitted liability for her injuries.

She had a spinal operation at Basildon Hospital in January, 1977. "Afterwards she was not properly or effectively immobilized and she sat up in bed," said Mr Michael Morland, QC, her counsel. "This caused damage to the spinal cord and as a result she is paraplegic from the lower chest down."

The agreed damages include compensation for loss of educational and career prospects and "loss of companionship of people of her own age," Mr Morland said. The award would also allow her to buy a car and a suitable bungalow and would provide future nursing care.

## In brief

## Boxer's brother fined £1,400

Michael Martin Conche, aged 22, brother of John Conche, the boxer, was fined £1,400 and ordered to pay £4,000 compensation at Marlborough Street magistrates' court London, yesterday after admitting stealing a cheque card belonging to Mr V. Genovese and using the same man's American Express card to obtain £1,404 of jewelry by deception in January last year. He lives at Elm Park Road, Chelsea.

His flatmate, Timothy Hawkins, aged 25, a hairdresser, admitted offences of deception and was fined £220 and ordered to pay £240 compensation to National Westminster Bank.

## Parcel collection halted by strike

No parcels will be collected until further notice in Greater Manchester because of an unofficial strike by 1,300 postal workers, the Post Office said yesterday. Letters and packets are not affected by the strike.

## Yachtswoman cleared

Mrs Rosie Swale, yachtswoman and author, was cleared yesterday of indecent exposure in a London court.

Mrs Swale, aged 31, told magistrates at Bow Street that she was researching a novel based on prostitution and needed to interview men for background material.

## Union decision

The Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers' executive yesterday decided to appeal against the High Court decision that allowed Mr Jack McPherson Quinn, a Lambeth council labour Party conference as a member of the union's delegation.

## Club can stay open

Kensington and Chelsea Council has failed in its attempt to close The Garden, a night club that opened in January, 1979, without planning permission. Mr Michael Heseltine, Secretary of State for the Environment, overruled the council after a public inquiry.

## No action on steel leak

The Director of Public Prosecutions has decided that no further action should be taken over confidential papers that were alleged to have been taken from the British Steel Corporation at Workington.

## Boy on harm charge

A boy aged 13 was remanded on bail until February 26 at Bracknell Juvenile Court, Berkshire, yesterday accused of grievous bodily harm after an incident on Monday in which a teacher was stabbed in her classroom.

## Bridge fall girl saved

A girl aged 13 who fell on to the parapet of a footbridge over a railway line at Vauxhall Hill, Greenwich, London, yesterday, was pulled to safety by Police Constable John Brown.

## Canal rescue by PC

Police Constable David Lawrence rescued a man from the South Yorkshire Canal in Rotherham yesterday after jumping into the water and holding the man up until help arrived.

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Former President, Hispanic &amp; Luso Brazilian Council, Canning House

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Chairman, British Overseas Trade Board  
Dudley Fishburn,  
Executive Editor, The Economist.

Leonard M. Mayer,  
C.B.E., Chairman, Lelo y Mayer S.A., Mexico

Jose Alvarez, Vice President for Development,  
ALFA Industrias, Mexico

Cecil Parkinson, Esq., M.P., Minister for Trade

Guillermo Guevez Garcia,  
Vice President & General Manager,  
Banco Nacional de Mexico, S.A.

Denis Armstrong,  
Director of Export Finance, Grindlays Bank Limited

Claus Von Wobeser,  
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and full conference  
documentation.



## HOME NEWS

## Legal action sought in Rampton man's case

By Lucy Hodges

Mr Patrick Jenkin, Secretary of State for Social Services, has been asked to take legal action against a local authority which is refusing to accept a patient from Rampton special hospital who is ready for release to a hostel.

MIND, the mental health charity, has written to the minister urging him to use his legal powers to force Kent County Council to accept a man who had been waiting three years to leave the high security hospital in Nottinghamshire.

There is complete agreement among the man's doctors and social workers, the mental health review tribunal and successive Home Secretaries that the patient should not be in any hospital, Mr Larry Gostin, legal director of MIND, says.

Mr Jenkin's attention is drawn to the report by the Boynton committee into the management of Rampton, published last November, which referred to the "scandal" of patients fit for transfer who could not leave the hospital.

MIND considers the council is breaking the law because it says it has a statutory duty to provide accommodation for such people. The council strongly denies that and says Islington Borough Council, where the man came from, has legal obligations towards him.

Islington has agreed to pay for the man, who wishes to remain anonymous, to be housed in Kent because he wishes to be there, near a relation. Kent County Council said yesterday that it had tried to help the man, but had been unable to do so because local psychiatric hospitals refused to take him and it had been decided he should not go to a hostel in Ashford.

The council said it was agreed that the man might be transferred to a hospital rather than a hostel, where he would receive the necessary support. Part of the reason for him being rejected for the hostel was that the staff there had considerable management difficulties with another former special hospital patient.

MIND replied that the council was evading responsibility. "The patient has pursued every available lawful procedure that any human being has and has been declared fit for release," Mr Gostin said. "Yet he is still in a maximum security hospital."

The difficulty patients have in being transferred from special hospitals to places in the community is well known and widespread, and the Government is increasingly realising that something should be done about it.

## Thames TV fails to get ban on film lifted

Thames Television failed in the Court of Appeal yesterday in its attempt to have lifted an injunction banning it from screening a documentary film about Primodos, the pregnancy testing drug at the centre of pending damages claims.

By a majority, Lord Denning, Master of the Rolls, dissenting, the court dismissed Thames TV's appeal from the ban granted last August on screening the film *The Primodos Affair*. The injunction was in favour of Schering Chemicals Ltd, the British subsidiary of a West German company.

It is contesting two damages claims by parents who say their children were born with malformations as a result of their mothers taking Primodos, which was withdrawn in 1978.

Schering was awarded two-thirds of the costs.

Law Report, page 9

## Government proposal for taking colleges from council control likely to receive mixed response

By Diana Geddes

Education Correspondent  
Some local authorities will protest noisily over government plans to remove polytechnics and higher education colleges from local authority control, but many will be secretly relieved to have the financial burden lifted, and most will come to accept with resignation the radical change.

That is the view of most local authority leaders and education officials consulted on the plans.

The Department of Education and Science has drawn up outline proposals approved by Mr Rhodes Boyson, the minister with responsibility for higher education, which are circulating in Whitehall as an internal consultative document.

The proposals involve a new semi-independent, national body along the lines of the University Grants Committee, which would be responsible for allocating government funds to polytechnics and other maintained colleges with a large proportion of higher education students.

At present, all maintained institutions of higher education are financed and managed by local authorities. The polytechnics have long pressed for their removal from local authority control.

The Government hopes to have a public consultative document ready by early summer before a White Paper, which would be followed almost certainly by the legislation necessary to set up the new body.

It is likely that the new body would not have direct representation of particular interest groups, but rather it would be made up of eminent people drawn from higher education, industry and local government, but appointed in a personal capacity.

Polytechnics are certain not to have fulfilled their other wish for complete autonomy; their degree courses will still have to be approved by the Council for National Academic Awards (CNAA), but they are likely to be given greater control over budgets, subject to any guidance or directions given by the new national body.

The Government would like the new body to have some say over higher education courses, but how this would be achieved remains to be answered.

Mr Boyson is known to want some regional dimension in

the planning of maintained higher education, but again the details are still to be worked out. It is possible that the existing regional advisory councils could be used for that purpose.

Another unanswered question is: Which colleges should be included under the new national body and which left to local authority control? There are about 100 polytechnics and colleges with 60 per cent or more of their work in higher education. Should they all be included?

Mrs Angela Rumbold, Conservative leader of Kingston Council and the chairman of the Council of Local Education Authorities last year, has described the plans as "a grab for power by central government". She warned heads of maintained colleges at a conference last week that the scheme could force the closure of some colleges and create big changes in others.

That kind of public outcry is expected. In private, some even agree that it would be better for higher education to be nationally administered. The Labour-controlled metropolitan authorities with polytechnics in their area are expected to protest loudest.

Mr Carlisle said at an Open University press conference in London that 45,000 students have graduated from that university since it began in 1971. One in 16 of all new graduates in Britain come from that university.

Some people looked down on the university's degrees, but they were misguided, he said. For as well as saying as much about a person's academic status as any other degree, it said a great deal more about his character, initiative and perseverance, qualities that employers would do well to bear in mind.

Mr Carlisle said that his secretary was an Open University graduate, so he had some idea of the effort it took to complete such a degree. Most students had to overcome the pressures and practical difficulties involved in "distance" learning while at the same time holding down full-time jobs or looking after their homes.

On the Government's decision to increase the university's undergraduate course fees next year by nearly half to £98, Mr Carlisle said that, at a time when other sectors of education had to make savings, the students should be asked to make an increased contribution towards the cost.

The Government grant to the university this year was £45m and the taxpayer subsidised 80 per cent of the cost of a student's course. The fee increase would make that about 87 per cent.

A survey published yesterday shows that an increasing proportion of new Open University graduates had less than normal university insurance requirements when they started their degrees; this applied to a quarter of this year's graduates, and 4 per cent had started with no formal examination qualifications at all.

Of the students who started in 1971, 56 per cent have completed their degrees.

## BBC and Equity agree on pay

By Kenneth Gosling

The BBC yesterday gave a guarantee to maintain employment levels for 1981-82 when agreement was announced with Equity, the actors' union, on new pay rates for television appearances.

The union accepted the BBC's fourth offer, a 10 per cent increase in the overall artists' budget from February 7 to December 31, with a new agreement from January 1, 1982.

The 15 per cent increase was previously to have run until February 1, 1982. The employment guarantee was regarded

as of great importance by Equity.

The BBC reiterated its intention to narrow the gap in artists' fees paid by it and the independent television companies.

The gap was greater than it would like, it said. Mr Alisdair Milne, the managing director of BBC Television, said that economies would be sought to pay for the £1.3m the agreement would cost. The increase averages 12.8 per cent over the year.

Mr Peter Plogvitz, general secretary of Equity, said: "We

are extremely hopeful that this represents a very real change in the pattern of negotiations over recent years.

"We think the BBC are now convinced, for the first time and at a higher level, that they have neglected the place of the performer in their overall operation."

When the full award is implemented, the basic weekly fee will rise from £125 to £141. Independent television's basic figure is £215.

The BBC had formerly said that any increase over 10 per cent would mean automatic loss of employment. Yesterday's agreement cancels that.

## MP says jobless men were told to advertise

By Pat Healy

Social Services Correspondent  
A Labour MP is protesting that pressure is being put on unemployed family men to advertise themselves as available for work as a condition of keeping their right to supplementary benefits.

Mr Frank Field, MP for Birkenhead, disclosed today that three constituents were interviewed in a locked room, and told they would lose their benefits unless they agreed to pay to advertise their availability.

Mr Field has written to Mr Patrick Jenkin, Secretary of State for Social Services, pointing out that his intervention has restored the men's benefit, and asking how he can rebut the charge that the Government's anti-fraud drive is being used to deny honest claimants benefits to which they are entitled.

In his letter, Mr Field says that the three men have been unemployed for a considerable time, which is not surprising in view of the high unemployment in Birkenhead. All are responsible for young children.

They told him that they felt they had been interrogated, rather than interviewed, and they were told that benefits would be stopped. They said they were nervous, "not to say terrified" during the interview. They were told their right to benefit might continue for a short time if they signed a

letter, of which they were not allowed a copy.

"The gist of the letters was that they would spend part of their weekly benefit in advertising either in the local paper or in having bills printed to be distributed on a house-to-house basis advertising the fact that they were looking for work," Mr Field wrote.

He said yesterday that supplementary benefits were recognised to be the minimum subsistence level and were not high enough to allow for advertising costs. It was the task of the Department of Employment to find work but the local job-centre had told him it had not been approached by the local social security office for information about jobs that could be used in such interviews.

"This is a vicious move that illustrates a deeper problem: the widening gap between the Department of Health and Social Security, who pay benefits, and the Department of Employment, who attempt to find work."

Mr Field has asked Mr Jenkin to give him copies of the letters signed by his constituents, and for his response to important policy considerations raised by the cases. He is asking whether the interviews were normal procedure or part of the anti-fraud drive for which the Government has set a target of saving £50m a year.

## Mrs Castle deplores small percentage of woman members of Parliament

By Frances Gibb

Britain has the lowest percentage of women in parliament of any of the European countries, Mrs Barbara Castle, leader of the British Labour Group in the European Parliament, told a conference in London yesterday.

"History has given us the suffragettes; the forgers of freedom for our Parliament is made up of women," she told a conference on "Equal Rights under Attack" organized by the Association of Professional, Executive, Clerical and Computer Staff.

By comparison, Denmark had 23.5 per cent; The Netherlands 14.7 per cent; Luxembourg 13.6 per cent; Belgium 11.8 per cent; Italy 8.3 per cent; Germany 8 per cent; Ireland 7.1 per cent and France 4.3 per cent. "In Britain we cannot hold up our heads over that," she said.

But Mrs Castle told the

conference, attended by about 40 delegates, that Britain led Europe in the use of its legislation for sex equality. Implementation of the Equal Pay Act, 1975 had been more effective in Britain than anywhere else in the European Community.

The ad hoc committee on women's rights of the European Parliament had just published a report, debated next month, which showed that complaints against pay discrimination in other member states had been almost non-existent. "But in the United Kingdom they have been spectacular."

"In Luxembourg and Denmark, the report points out, there has been no recourse to the courts over equal pay. In Denmark and West Germany, there is no administrative supervision of the equal pay laws by the authorities. In Italy last year only 10 cases of pay discrimination were taken through the courts."

In the United Kingdom, Mrs Castle said, the full implementation of the Act was followed by a flood of applications to tribunals. The total of 1,742 had now decreased to 343 because a number of test cases had been settled but that figure was still way ahead of elsewhere.

The trade unions had a vital role to play in making sex equality a reality, Mrs Castle said. "There is a long way to go. There are still far too few women in trade unions and the unions are not likely to recruit them as long as they present an almost exclusively male front in their top jobs and in their conferences."

Trade unions should use their position in the Labour Party to get more women into Parliament, she said. "Fasting laws was only the first stage. It is up to women to implement them, improve them and change attitudes. And it is up to the trade unions to give women that opportunity."

## Budgerigar owners warned of disease

From Our Correspondent

Sheffield  
A coroner yesterday warned budgerigar owners about a rare, fatal illness that could be caused by the birds. He was speaking at an inquest into the death of Mrs Florence Fryer, of Chaucer Road, Sheffield.

Dr Herbert Pilling, coroner for South Yorkshire, west, said: "I am not trying to cause a panic because few people are likely to develop this disease when they come into contact with budgerigars. It is the first time I have come across it and I feel it is so rare

it should be given some publicity.

The inquest was told that Mrs Fryer, aged 57, bought the bird seven years ago and began feeling ill two years later. She had chest pains.

Doctors were unable to diagnose her illness until 12 months ago, by which time it was too late. She was admitted to hospital a week ago and died a day later.

Dr Elspeth Alstead, medical registrar, told the coroner the cause of death was respiratory failure caused by budgerigar disease.

"The disease is caused by allergic reaction to inhaled substances from certain proteins contained in budgerigars, usually caused by the droppings. It only occurs in certain individuals who become sensitized to these dusts."

The coroner said any budgerigar owner who suffered symptoms similar to Mrs Fryer's would be advised to get rid of the bird and seek immediate medical help.

The coroner recorded a verdict of death from natural causes.



New graduates: Lieutenant Roland Playford, RM; Mr Graham Franklin, fishmonger; and WPC Angela Frederick.

## Mandatory grants to Open University students rejected

By Our Education Correspondent

High praise for students and staff at the Open University came from Mr Mark Carlisle, Secretary of State for Education and Science, yesterday, but he ruled out any chance in the immediate future of introducing mandatory grants for the students.

Mr Carlisle said at an Open University press conference in London that 45,000 students have graduated from that university since it began in 1971. One in 16 of all new graduates in Britain come from that university.

Some people looked down on the university's degrees, but they were misguided, he said. For as well as saying as much about a person's academic status as any other degree, it said a great deal more about his character, initiative and perseverance, qualities that employers would do well to bear in mind.

Mr Carlisle said that his secretary was an Open University graduate, so he had some idea of the effort it took to complete such a degree. Most students had to overcome the pressures and practical difficulties involved in "distance" learning while at the same time holding down full-time jobs or looking after their homes.

On the Government's decision to increase the university's undergraduate course fees next year by nearly half to £98, Mr Carlisle said that, at a time when other sectors of education had to make savings, the students should be asked to make an increased contribution towards the cost.

The Government grant to the university this year was £45m and the taxpayer subsidised 80 per cent of the cost of a student's course. The fee increase would make that about 87 per cent.

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Of the students who started in 1971, 56 per cent have completed their degrees.

## Rise in number of abortions

In 1979, 120,611 legal abortions were performed on women normally living in England and Wales, an increase of about 8,600 over 1978.

More than half the women involved were single. A total of 3,534 girls under 16 had abortions, against 3,298 in 1978.

## Court clears man who says he was framed

A man who claimed that the police planted a small amount of cannabis on him during a betting shop raid was cleared by the Court of Appeal yesterday of possessing the drug.

Lancelles Gordon, aged 37, unemployed, of Pynchley Road, East Dulwich, London, who was fined £100 at the Central Criminal Court on January 11,

1979, had his conviction quashed and sentence set aside.

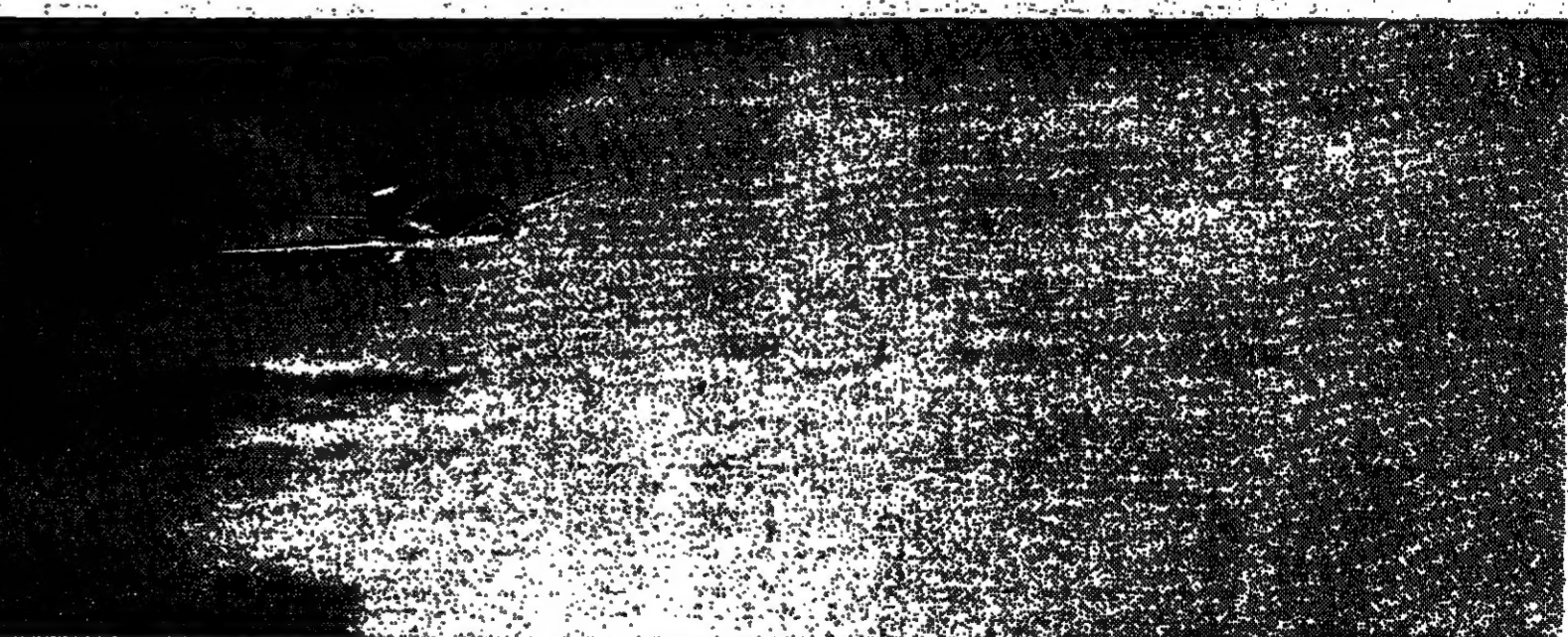
Mr Justice Hodgson said Mr Gordon had not raised the defence that he "had" been framed until his trial, but it was his common law right to remain silent.

Judge Grieve had told the jury that they could draw any adverse inference from Mr

Gordon's non-protestation of innocence.

Mr Justice Hodgson added: "This was the plainest possible invitation to the jury to take as indicative of guilt the fact that this appellant had exercised his common law right of silence." But for the Judge's words Mr Gordon might have been acquitted.

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## WEST EUROPE AND OVERSEAS

The case was heard in March of last year. It was dismissed. The two experts were awarded symbolic one franc damages. M. Blanc-Lapierre sued the penal administration; and it was this case which at long



## OVERSEAS

## Mr Reagan promises 'swift retribution' for future terrorists

From Patrick Brogan  
Washington, Jan 27

President Reagan welcomed the hostages back to America today, just a week after they left Iran and he himself took office. Standing before a large crowd at the White House, he gave a warning that any other kidnapping of American diplomats would meet with swift retribution.

"Let terrorists be aware", he said, "that when the rules of international behaviour are violated, our response will be swift and effective retribution. We hear it said that we live in an era of limits to our power. Well, let it also be understood there are limits to our patience."

The hostages arrived at the White House at 2.30 pm after a 90-minute drive from Andrews Air Force base. There were a quarter of a million people lining the streets, cheering the convoy of buses and their police and military escorts.

There were yellow ribbons everywhere, in reference to the song "I'll have a yellow ribbon on the old oak tree" which marks the return of a prisoner. Ever since the very first days after the hostages were captured in November 1979, ribbons have been draped round trees in various parts of the country.

Today the ribbons were everywhere. The Treasury building, a severe grey granite edifice, had ribbons of alternating columns of its long portico. On closer inspection, they turned out to be paper cutouts, in the shape of bows, but they made a jolly and slightly bizarre sight.

There were endless signs of welcome. Mr Bruce Laingen, the senior diplomat among the hostages, remarked on one in particular: "IRS welcomes you back." IRS is the Internal Revenue Service.

There were about 7,000 people in the back garden of the White House, to cheer the hostages and to hear the President. There, the American ambassadors representing those

countries that had played a part in negotiating the hostages' release, were also in the line of honour, but also with the British, West German and Swiss ambassadors.

The 52 hostages who returned a week ago were joined this afternoon by Mr Richard Queen, the hostage who developed multiple sclerosis in captivity and was released last year. Their families were there, and so were the families of the eight soldiers who died in the unsuccessful rescue attempt last April.

Mr Reagan told them: "You are home and, believe me, you are welcome. You've come home to a people who, for 44 days, suffered the pain of your imprisonment, prayed for your safety, and, most importantly, shared your determination that the spirit of free men and women is not a fit subject for harassment."

After the official welcome on the White House lawn, there was a reception in the East Room. Mr Reagan presented each of the hostages with an American flag in a case.

There were to be fireworks this evening and the former hostages and their families will celebrate the occasion again, before returning home for rest and recuperation. Mr Reagan disclosed yesterday that about a dozen of them still suffer from psychological problems as a result of their captivity.

Two of the President's most senior staff, Mr Ed Meese, Counselor, and Mr James Baker, Chief of Staff, said today that the agreements with Iran are still being examined but would probably be honoured in full. Iranian companies have already started placing orders with the Treasury as to whether they should reply.

Those companies that did business with Iran before the revolution have claims, some of them very large, against Iran that are to be examined by the claims commission set up as part of the agreement on the release of the hostages.

## Ill-treatment stories are played down by hostages

From Michael Leapman  
West Point, Jan 27

Forty-one of the 52 former American hostages, in their first formal public appearance since their release from Iran last week, seemed anxious to play down reports of ill-treatment at the hands of their captors.

At today's press conference at West Point, the military academy, where they have been relaxing with their families since returning from Germany on Sunday, they would not go into details about what they had been through.

This may have been by instruction from the State Department. The press conference was voluntary for the former hostages and it was surprising that so many of them agreed to submit themselves to reporters who have been hounding them since their release. As it turned out, they provided less detailed information about their captivity than they have done during casual meetings with reporters here and in Germany.

One of the Marines, Sergeant Johnny McKeel, gave the pluckiest answer, when asked about reports that some of the returned hostages are suffering from mental difficulties. "All the people I've talked to are all right," he said. "As soon as we got home and got back to chasing women it will be all right."

Colonel Thomas Schaefer, the air attaché at the embassy, explained the temporary difficulty in adjusting to freedom. "During captivity, the greatest problem was what to have with the rice," he said. "Then 48 hours later we are in Germany and President Carter is embracing us with tears in his eyes. It takes time to adjust."

Miss Elizabeth Swift, one of the two women held, warned the press against misreporting allegations of ill-treatment. She complained that she had been misquoted on the subject in *Newsweek*.



Former hostage Mr Charles Jones receiving an emotional welcome from his family.

Sergeant William Gallegos of the Marines said: "The captors were good to us by their own standards... but we were not being treated well."

None of the former hostages would be drawn into criticism of the Carter Administration's actions before their capture or during it. The closest to a critical comment came from Mr Bruce Laingen, the "champion" of the hostages. Discussing the aborted rescue mission last April, he said he took "a very strong view about anything that could have endangered our lives."

Mr Victor Tomseth, senior political officer, answered questions about the United States Government had set a prece-

dent, by negotiating with terrorists. "If you look beyond the rhetoric in previous terrorist incidents, there is a precedent for negotiation except when it ended in death," he said.

Mr John Graves, public affairs officer at the embassy, said that the press had not reported properly the real aim of the young people who stormed the embassy. They were, he said, genuine students and at the beginning their call for the return of the Shah to Iran was a pretext cloaking their true intentions.

Details of how the captives passed the time were given by Mr William Kaough, head of the American school in Palda-

na, who was visiting the embassy when it was taken. During the 14 months and a half they had read a lot and written notes about their experiences. During periodic inspections the Iranians would take away what they had written, so they would write it out again until some of them knew it by heart.

About 300 reporters attended the press conference in Eisenhower Hall, a large auditorium in the academy grounds. It was televised live.

Mr Laingen was the moderator and made an opening speech expressing gratitude for the welcome they had received on behalf of "this embassy in exile which goes out of business officially today."

## Tehran uses film to repudiate US claims

From Tony Alloway  
Tehran, Jan 27

Iranian officials tonight confirmed they were sending filmed interviews with each of the 52 American hostages abroad for the world to judge allegations of mistreatment.

Mr Ahmad Azizi, former head of hostage affairs in the Prime Minister's office, told a press conference that half an hour from the film, which is between four and five hours long, had already been used on television last Saturday.

Mr Azizi said that in the interviews with one of their student captors, some of the hostages "might" complain of psychological torture concerning the length of their confinement. "But in general, most is contrary to what Carter and the others have said," he added.

At the press conference Mr Bahzad Nabavi, Minister of State and a government spokesman, further countered internal criticism of the deal that freed the hostages, amid growing signs that the Government would be able to ride the storm of protest over the accord.

Mr Nabavi questioned the policy of the new, less leading moderate papers in running daily leading articles condemning the deal, saying it only provided ammunition for the BBC and foreign papers to use against Iran.

"In the foreign press the solution is referred to as the United States has paid ransom, but in Iran they say the opposite," he said. "As he spoke, it was apparent that the campaign against the deal in the two newspapers, *Moshir* and *Islamic Revolution*, was beginning to lose steam."

Mr Nabavi also indicated that Iran was willing to reopen diplomatic relations with Canada, provided it undertook "not to engage in spying or assisting spying activities against Iran."

The Iranian gave the help the Canadians gave to six American diplomats to flee from Iran during the crisis.

## In brief

## Falklands move draws protest

Argentina has expressed "deep concern" at reports that the Falkland Islands is seeking to encourage people to move from St Helena, settle in the islands to help fill job vacancies (our Diplomatic Correspondent writes). Mr Anthony Williams, the British Ambassador in Buenos Aires, has been told that such a move would prejudice possible future negotiations between the two countries, according to the Argentine Foreign Ministry.

The Foreign Office said yesterday that immigration is a matter for the Falklands Islands Government, not Britain.

**Indian cosmonaut**  
Dahli, Jan 27.—The Soviet Union could put an Indian cosmonaut into space as early as 1992 if a decision on selecting the spaceman is taken now, Lieutenant-General Georgi Beregovoy, head of the Soviet cosmonaut training centre, said.

**Hope fades**  
Bodo, Norway, Jan 27.—Rescue officials hold out little hope for the four missing crew from a Greek cargo ship, *Deifivos*, that sank off Norway's north coast, a spokesman said. Five bodies have been recovered and 29 crew have been rescued.

**Less sparkle**  
Egersey, Jan 27.—Sales of champagne dropped by more than 4 per cent to 175,466,231 bottles last year because of a poor wine harvest in 1978 and 1980, the Champagne Wine Producers Association said.

**Bets closed**  
Rome, Jan 27.—The public prosecutor today issued 50 arrest warrants, 22 of them for creditors, and ordered the closure of the casinos at San Remo on the Italian Riviera.

**Guerrilla demand**  
Bogota, Jan 27.—Guerrillas holding Mr Chester Bittman, the American linguist, demanded publication of a statement in American, European and Latin American newspapers as a condition for his release.

## Haig speaks rewrites the grammar

From William Safire  
New York, Jan 27

A new linguistic form called Haigravitation is rearing its head in Washington. It is the tendency of the new Secretary of State to change the state of parts of speech—from noun to adverb, from noun to verb.

The new top man at Foggy Bottom, former General Alexander Haig, studied his testimony at confirmation hearings with locutions such as "I'll have to caveat my response, senator, and I'll caveat that."

Caveat, as used by generals like Julius Caesar, is the third-person, singular present subjunctive of the Latin *caveo*, to beware. Standing by itself, caveat in Latin means "let him beware." In English, the word is a noun synonymous with warning. It is also part of the Latin phrase caveat emptor, let the buyer beware.

Until now, caveat has been a noun. In Haigravitation, it has become a verb. "I'll caveat that," means, presumably, "I'll say that with this warning." (I'll caveat the reader that this locution will soon be followed in literary circles with "I'll asterisk that.")

Not to be outdone, Senator John Glenn asked the witness: "Will you burden-share?" This is a heavy new verb formed from burden-sharing, diplomatic jargon for "my taxpayers won't kick in any more until yours do."

But Mr Glenn is not in Mr Haig's verbiage league. Not in the way you answered, he said, "Senator, was a four-star reply about immorality in high places. To context something in this line, is to place it in context."

Mr Haig has a history of this sort of thing. In hearings last year, the former general said something like: "There are nuance-al differences between Henry Kissinger and me on that." The exact quotation cannot be found because "nuance-al" or "nuansie," was expunged from the written record of the hearing by some unknown hand, and "differences of nuance" put in—New York Times News Service.

## FBI clears the way for new Labour Secretary

From David Gross  
Washington, Jan 27

To the great relief of President Reagan, the Federal Bureau of Investigation has uncovered no evidence of illegal or unethical behaviour by Mr Raymond Donovan, his choice for Secretary of Labour.

At a confirmation hearing by the Senate labour and human resources committee today, Mr Francis Mulien, Assistant Director of the FBI, said that he and his colleagues had conducted a "thorough and exhaustive" investigation into allegations of contacts between Mr Donovan and organized crime figures, as well as claims that his building firm had been involved in underhand payments to trade union officials.

In its determination to leave no stone unturned, some 120 people had been interviewed in "the most extensive" inquiry into the background of any Cabinet nominee. Mr Mulien said the investigation had failed to develop any information to substantiate several allegations made against the Labour Secretary-designate or the Schlavoone Construction Company of New Jersey, he added.

The FBI's failure to come up with any incriminating evidence against Mr Donovan should lead to the swift approval of his nomination by the Senate committee and then by the full Senate.

The hearing into his suitability for the post of Labour

Secretary opened alongside all the other Senate investigations into Mr Reagan's Cabinet nominees a couple of weeks before the new President's inauguration last Tuesday.

The hope then was that all the secretaries-designate would be confirmed by Wednesday or Thursday of last week. But when the allegations of impropriety against Mr Donovan were raised a couple of weeks ago, Senator Orrin Hatch of Utah, chairman of the labour committee, postponed the hearings until after the FBI had checked fully.

Not only have the original allegations against Mr Donovan been a source of some embarrassment to Mr Reagan, but the delay in his confirmation has also highlighted the fact that the replacement of senior officials in the various government departments is proceeding much more slowly than the new administration had originally hoped.

Soon after his election last November Mr Reagan promised that his new Administration would "hit the ground running" the moment he assumed power formally on January 20.

But although the confirmation of most members of his Cabinet was concluded by the Senate last week, many more junior ministers are still waiting for their nominations to be approved formally. In addition, there are still many vacancies among the several hundred senior government posts reserved for political appointees.

## Abscam defendant guilty

From Our Own Correspondent  
Washington, Jan 27

Mr Richard Kelly, the most colourful of those accused of political corruption during the so-called Abscam investigation, has become the sixth member of Congress to be found guilty of the charges against him.

After six hours of deliberations here, a federal jury decided that videotape recordings showing Mr Kelly stuffing

\$25,000 (£10,400) in cash into his pockets were sufficiently good evidence to convict him.

The recordings suggested that Mr Kelly had accepted the money in return for promising to do what he could to help two fictitious Arab sheikhs to immigrate to the United States. The wealthy "Arabs" were, in fact, disguised agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

Throughout the trial, Mr Kelly protested his innocence.

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PARLIAMENT, January 27, 1981

## Jobless total serious: PM does not intend to depart from policy

House of Commons

For years Britain has tolerated overpopulation, restrictive practices and pay increases far in excess of productivity and at last they had a Government which was dealing with the underlying problems, Mrs Margaret Thatcher, the Prime Minister, said when she was questioned on the unemployment figures announced today.

The exchanges began after Mr Ivan Lewis (Barnet, C) had said, amid Labour laughter, Conservative MPs warmly welcomed Mrs Thatcher's intention to arrange a seminar on Unemployment Street for investors and entrepreneurs.

Mr Michael Foot, Leader of the Opposition (Ebbw Vale, Lab), said the Government's policy of encouraging innovation and investment in the private sector was a good one, but it was not enough. He said the Government should be doing more to create jobs in the public sector.

Mrs Thatcher: I agree with Mr Foot that they are very tragic figures. If he wishes to pursue the question of debating them he should see Mr Pym, Leader of the House.

Mr Foot: We have asked that figures of this tragic significance should have been debated and arrangements should have been made for the Government to provide time.

The figures announced today were worse than any unemployment figures announced since the end of the war. They are worse than any figures for January, except one month in the 1930s. That is the situation we face.

In May 1977 when the unemployment figures were more than a million less than they are today, Mrs Thatcher said: "We would have been drummed out of office if we had these figures."

She said that she faced the House of Commons and debate these matters properly. Will she acknowledge that she has been responsible for the unemployment figures we have had recorded in this country this century?

Mrs Thatcher: Mr Foot will pursue the question of unemployment through the proper channels, with the Leader of the House (Mr Pym), which as a former Leader of the House he knows very well, and place and time to pursue them.

These times are different from the 1930s (Labour protests). During the 1930s there were only 1.8 million people at work. The employed working population today is something near 24 million people.

Mr Foot: Mrs Thatcher has acknowledged for the first time that these are figures of a quite different, tragic and momentous consequence. Does she intend to

proceed with the policies that have helped produce them? Mrs Thatcher: Mr Foot seems to indicate you cannot fight inflation and unemployment together. To fight inflation is the best way to fight unemployment in the longer run.

One of the problems we have had for 20 years we have not taken steps we should have done to put fundamental problems right. Mr William Hamilton (Central Lancashire, Lab): Is she serious in black faces of these figures? Her advice to keep on making the medicine is creating industrial misdeeds, unemployment in the United Kingdom. When on earth will she come to her senses and face reality?

Mrs Thatcher: The policy of encouraging innovation and investment in the private sector is a good one, but it is not enough. He said the Government should be doing more to create jobs in the public sector.

## Unique concentration of newspaper power in one set of hands

Such concentrations of newspaper power

as were proposed by the purchase of *The Times* and *The Sunday Times* by Mr Rupert Murdoch were probably unique in the history of the British press, Mr John Piel, Opposition spokesman on trade, said opening the emergency debate on the proposed sale of the titles. The newspapers concerned had a unique place in the national life, he added.

Mr Smith (North Lanarkshire, Lab) said the proposed purchase raised vital questions of public interest. The Act of 1973, which gave the Monopolies and Mergers Commission in this case was clear in its intention to prevent a very large concentration of power in one set of hands.

The understanding that with *The Sun* and *The Times*, Mr Murdoch would have 30 per cent of daily newspaper readership, *The News of the World* and *The Sunday Times* together would make 36 per cent of Sunday newspaper readership.

Mr Piel (said, perhaps our most prestigious paper, has played, still plays and will, I hope, continue to play a role as a platform for national debate and articulation of independent opinion.

*The Sunday Times* has pioneered new journalism and techniques of reporting which have made it one of the most influential and successful Sunday newspapers in our history.

Both played such a role in national life, that particular care had to be given to how and by whom they were controlled.

Parliament already provided a method by which those matters could be scrutinised. In Part II of the Act, which provided for the mechanism thus provided was said to be not a proper way of handling the matter.

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## Trade Secretary explains why he consented to Mr Murdoch's bid for 'The Times'

Mr John Biffen, Secretary of State

for Trade (Oswestry, C), said the holding of the debate and the interest expressed both within the House and outside it, was an important place which *Times Newspapers* had in Britain's national life, and the matter of their continuance was issues of genuine public concern.

The general desire was to see that *The Times* and *The Sunday Times* and the various supplements continued in publication and to preserve the traditions and independence of the press.

Under the 1973 Fair Trading Act there was a presumption that a proposed acquisition of a newspaper should be investigated by the Monopolies Commission.

The Act did, however, provide for a transfer of ownership of a newspaper to be made without the consent of the Monopolies Commission.

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## Government do care: large scale help

The Government had given aid

to industry on a scale which refuted Labour's argument that the Conservative Party did not care about unemployment. Mr James Prior, Secretary of State for Employment, said today.

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## THE ARTS

## Last night's television

Dear Brutus  
BBC 1

## Michael Ratcliffe

Dear Brutus began violently with angry Edwardian ladies striding from room to room in a country house like Bacchantes after a disappointing meal. Their collective determination, in which they excitedly and rudely interrupted one another, was quite terrifying until it emerged that it was a device to frighten the butler, who had stolen their rings, into explaining why their eccentric host had invited them there on Midsummer's Eve. It was another Berrie trick. What we had now to turn our attention to was what was going on in the world that they would be sure of a big surprise.

When the Dancing had to Stop  
BBC 1

## Miles Kingston

When you dance on stage, Nureyev told us last night, you should have such total commitment that the public could never imagine you as a human being. This *Omnia* film set out to explore exactly those offstage pressures in Lynn Seymour's life and when the producer, Vanya Kewley, started filming last May she must have known that there was a great deal to work on: two failed marriages, three children to bring up and pay for, worries over an Achilles tendon and a career hiatus at the age of 40. What she could not have known at that time was that the film, before filming finished, Seymour would also be involved in a second foot injury, a controversial appearance at a Palladium gala evening, an engagement to a 29-year-old rock composer and a headline-grabbing resignation from the Royal Ballet, all of which the film made good use of.

In *Play for Today* the plot would seem all too improbable but, thanks to Seymour's willingness to be frank and to know that ballet dancers use foul language occasionally and her imperviousness to the cameras (both husbands were

## The homecoming of Judy Campbell

Forty years ago Judy Campbell started out in Rep playing Miss Warren in *Mrs Warren's Profession* and Eliza in *Pygmalion*; this winter for the first time since those early days she is back in Shaw, only now of course playing the mothers—a few weeks ago she was Mrs Warren at the Nottingham Playhouse, and now she is Mrs Higgins in the Young Vic revival of *Pygmalion* which opens this evening. Once that first night is over she then goes straight into rehearsal for her first-ever Shakespearean role, the Duchess of York in the Young Vic's *Richard II*.

"When I was young they asked me to go to the Old Vic and I couldn't because of the children, so now here I am at last, old and at the Young Vic. I think it's rather lovely being sixty: people suddenly seem to have remembered that I'm still alive and available for work."

Especially her son, Judy Campbell's children include not only Jane Birkin, a kind of Yvonne Arnaud in reverse who has managed to become a big film star in France, but also Andrew Birkin who wrote the triumphant BBC television series and book about J. M. Barrie and the lost Llewellyn Davies boys.

"His latest project is a film based on the Saki short story *Shredded* and he asked me to play the awful Mrs de Ropp whom the boys say is the scariest woman I know. I said 'but you didn't have that a childhood, did you?' He said 'I wouldn't play it he'd get somebody to look just like me, so in the end I did it myself'."

Judy Campbell is in her own definition the star who never was. She was the most successful actress in the country for several years as Noel Coward's leading lady in four successive plays of his (*Billie*, *Private Lives*, *Relative Values*) and indeed sang with him on hospital concert tours in the war, though she was the first ever to sing "A Nightingale Sang in Berkeley Square" though she starred in the first-ever Ayckbourn comedy and herself wrote a play which starred Kay Kendall under Rex Harrison's direction. She was also a successful actress in a number of younger theatre companies despite one of the most distinctively husky voices this side of Joan Greenwood.

"People think I've never taken the theatre quite seriously enough, but that's not altogether true. I just that I married outside the business and somehow the family life often seemed more important than going to a theatre every night. Besides, for years we lived on a farm beyond Newbury and before they built the



M4 it took hours to get to London and I could never find a nanny or a housekeeper who wanted to live on a farm, so that was that. Not that I regret a moment of it: we're coming to our thirty-seventh wedding anniversary and I still see all the children almost all the time, and you can't achieve that sort of family by going to a theatre six nights a week."

Though she herself in fact came of a highly theatrical family:

"My father ran away from home in Norfolk to be an actor, changing his name to Campbell when he heard there was a managing looking for Scots accents. He was divinely good-looking but far too shy ever to make a real success, and after a few years of doing really terrible melodramas round the provinces, he decided he could write better than that himself. So he became a dramatist, wrote some hugely successful dramas with titles like *From Convent to Throne* and *The Sin of Her Childhood* and with the money, which was considerable, he bought the theatre in Grantham where my brother was born. He became a scientist."

"All I ever played at Grantham were maids, but then I did go to the Arts Theatre at Cambridge where Baxter Somerville put me into *Pygmalion* with Essie Percy who gave me all the moves that Shaw had given to Mrs Patrick

months later when there was enough vulcanite to make one I was in the original production of *Pygmalion* as they said would I mind very much if they got Vera Lynn to sing it instead, and she's on all the records. I can't say I really mind that very much; I've always thought of myself as an actress rather than a singer, and that little revue was almost accidental, though I'm delighted it brought me to Coward's attention."

"I spent more than a year on tour with Noel, and between the shows we'd go off to the nearest army or navy hospital and do concerts; Noel did most of the work, but I did about 15 minutes in the middle while he rested his voice. He knew the whole thing scared me played and that I'd rather have played *Madame Butterfly* without a rehearsal than one of those concerts, so he used to give me a nip of gin before we went on, and then he taught me how to walk on with confidence and stand there quite still until you had hush. I used to do a 'Nightingale' and then a lot of Cole Porter, anything with a really good lyric and a nice simple tune. Noel once said my trouble was that I looked like a fascinating lady but under near I was really just an old lavender bag, though I think in a way that was maybe more true of himself."

"But he encouraged me to write, as well, and first of all I did a terrible comedy about the Crusades which Ambrose Phillips played quite marvellously just for one Sunday-night performance at the Stage Society. Then, years later, I was with Anna Massey in *The Reluctant Debutante* and wanted to write something for her so I wrote a comedy called *The Bright One*, but then Rex Harrison bought it for his wife Kay Kendall who was dying of leukaemia, and it was the last play she ever did, and so dramatic for me all that it rather cured me of wanting to be a playwright."

Judy Campbell's only real regret, however, is that she has never yet managed to play Broadway:

"And now, with all the union restrictions on Broadway, it looks as though I never shall. Just once I'd have liked to see my name up there in lights; in the past every time I got a New York offer I seemed to get pregnant at the same time. But apart from that, no regrets at all, and the marvellous thing about the Young Vic is that it's like coming home to weekly Rep once again. It's cocoa time instead of West End champagne, and I feel I've come home at last."

Sheridan Morley

The Philadelphia Story  
Playhouse, Oxford

## Irving Wardle

Although the title of Philip Barry's twice filmed Broadway hit seems to promise more than it delivers, the play in fact contains two Philadelphia stories.

The first shows the descent of a New York reporter-photographer team on the Philadelphia scene to investigate its industry and history as a prelude to tearing its fashionable society into shreds. For as house guests of the wealthy Lord family on the eve of their daughter's remarriage, they gradually learn so much to their privileged hosts that Mike, the reporter, wilyly remarks, "I've lost my angle: got tolerant all of a sudden". Along those lines, the Philadelphia story never gets written.

However, there remains the second story of a collision between the Lord clan, with their fancy names and playboy occupations, and the self-made radicals who move in to do a hatchet job on them. Along this line, the two parties learn from each other and wind up all on excellent terms.

All that is, but for the snuffed-out industry since whose self-righteous departure brands him an outsider in the group. In one sense, the play is an elegant demonstration of the American melting pot theory: sophisticated and their fancy names and playboy occupations, and the self-made radicals who move in to do a hatchet job on them. Along this line, the two parties learn from each other and wind up all on excellent terms.

The same could be said of a victim of the same cuts, Sir Ralph Richardson has pointed out in *The Times*.

The director of the plays, Bill Buffery, is a former member of the NYT, as are several of the actors, and as is Mr. Keefe's account, and authenticity of the acting and writing is a world removed from the old formal skills of the English theatre and they come together most impressively in *Killing Time*, a play Mr. Keefe wrote for the NYT.

Mr. Buffery, then still an amateur, directed that first production and his maturity is everywhere recognizable in his staging. It is a difficult, precise place of words, ranging through slums and parks and the West End with the interruption of sudden soliloquies. As performed now, it rolls with a brilliant comic pace, bickering only slightly in the background.

The comedy, as usual, is already plentifully there in Mr. Keefe's writing, and his picture of the three young men who flirt with criminality is complexly sketched also to show their greater potential. The actors, David Lear, Robert Glenister and Sylvester Williams, convincingly establish the friendship of the characters but it is Mr. Williams, the black youth trained in refrigeration who most tellingly explores the writing for its full range of experience.

In *Gotcha*, however, although the power of the play comes through, Mr. Buffery seems to have forgotten to install fear in the hostages held by the school-boy.

David Wilson-Johnson  
Purcell Room

## William Mann

The versatility of David Wilson-Johnson's well-nourished baritone voice was demonstrated with something like a *tour de force* in his recital on Monday, with David Owen Norris as his uncommonly responsive pianist. For Mr. Wilson-Johnson has a ready and likable sense of humour, brought out in Warlock's "Yarmouth Fair", even to a touch of malice.

No doubt was left that he is a serious interpreter of song, able to convey a particular musical atmosphere in the first phrase or so of each song—probably the more exactly because he is like him, a singer who has a ready and likable sense of humour, brought out in Warlock's "Yarmouth Fair", even to a touch of malice.

Wilson-Johnson's account of "Six Dukes went a-fishing", the Purcell Room acoustics were inclined to distort his tone at times, though his voice is bigger than he volunteered here; even so, he does sometimes sing round the note, and not plumb in the middle of it, which could prove dangerous later if he does not concentrate his intonation.

Cowie's new songs derive from his recent *commedia dell'arte* opera, called simply *Commedia*, as their title implies. There are nine of them, each concerned with the clown's attitude to an aspect of life (magic, work, dreaming, war, love, are the first five); precise texts, sober vocal line, highly ornate and brilliant piano commentary, rather loosely strung but compelling.

Some of the reviews on this page are reprinted from yesterday's later editions

## Book review

The First of the Tudors  
A Study of Henry VII and His ReignBy Michael van Cleave  
Alexander  
(Croom Helm, £12.95)

Henry VII is the most under-appreciated of our kings. And yet he ought not to be, for we have under our eyes one of the spokes of late medieval works in Henry VII's Chapel at Westminster—a monument to the spousalness of his mind and taste. It was even finer before the Puritans destroyed the splendid stained glass, like that of a King's College, which he largely contributed. He called in Torrigiano to create the figures which make the tomb perhaps the finest Renaissance piece north of the Alps.

We have a living monument to him, who may not realize—with their tendresse for the Stuarts—that it all goes back to, and was planned by, him in bringing off his daughter Margaret's marriage to James IV of Scotland. A difficult feat, it took him 10 years, for Scotland was tied to France by the Auld Alliance. Professor Alexander is at his best in these tedious diplomatic negotiations.

I find Henry VII far more interesting than his bouncing, overweening like Henry VIII or Oliver Cromwell. Elizabeth I had a high opinion of him: "my good grandfather", she once said—she never paid a tribute like that to her father, who had killed her mother. (Henry VII was a Yorkist all over, just like his grandfather Edward IV, a big, womanizing, out-of-doors type, burly and fat.)

Henry VII was slim in both senses of the word, very sharp, secretive, humane, a planner: he carefully planned the success of his rule, the right man for the job at the right time. His fault is thought to be that he became avaricious before the end. I find that interesting psychologically: he was over-compensating the insecurity of his early years. He once told the historian, Polydore Vergil, that he had spent the first fourteen years of his life in confinement, and the next in exile. I wonder if he spoke English with an accent part-Welsh, part-French? He never had the gift of popularity, which many bad men have been able to command.

His background was fascinating: the early Tudors in Anglesey had been supporters of the Welsh resistance movement under Owen Glendower. Henry's grandmother was Henry V's widow, Catherine de France, who married the young Welsh squire. The Lady Margaret Beaufort, a very pious head—see her figure in Westminster Abbey—Henry's mother, was the heiress-general



Pietro Torrigiano's monument to Henry VII in Westminster Abbey

of John of Gaunt and of the Lancastrian claim to the throne. She used to sign herself "Margaret R."—perhaps improperly, but it showed what she thought of the matter.

The Professor is quite good about her patronage of learning, her splendid foundations at Cambridge, but is wrong in thinking Cambridge less than half the size of Oxford—it was already in the fifteenth century. Professor Alexander's book is competent and conscientious, but hardly scintillating. What makes it difficult to bring Henry VII alive is that there is little in the way of personal correspondence.

One way to remedy that is to have a visual sense of the scenes where things happened, but American academics have no visual sense, especially apposite today. We should have been given the fascinating Welsh-Breton-French background (Henry did his serious reading in French), instead of

a conventional chapter on Yorkist rule.

He does well to point out the happy marriage Henry made with Elizabeth of York, and the deep affection between him and his mother—such a contrast with the scandalous libel Richard III cast against the virtue of his pious mother. It is quite gratuitous to suggest that John Howard had anything to do with the murder of the Princes in the Tower—nobody said so at the time. Everybody knew who was responsible: the man who took their place. Howard's great-grandson gives us the Howard family tradition in his published book in 1583 as to Richard's heinous crime. They knew; everybody knew. Henry VII, who restored respectability to the throne, the architect of Tudor success. It is consoling to read of success in politics and planning.

A. L. Rowse

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Why Mr Frank Chapple's attack on the electoral college may yet be vindicated

# The man who really scored at Wembley

Mr Frank Chapple, the favourite *bête noire* of the Left, made one of the few articulate and intellectually honest speeches of the day during Labour's special conference at Wembley. He was barracked but his presentation only faltered once, and there the needle temporarily stuck in the groove.

As the protest mounted, the electrician's leader returned three times to his complaint that, unless the party leader was elected by the "one man, one vote" system, then the choice would be influenced by Communists, Fascists and Conservatives.

In the event, his appeal fell on predictably deaf ears because the block votes had already been marshalled in support of an electoral college. The only argument was over who should have the greatest say, and some unions now show every sign of embarrassment at getting more than they really wanted.

But however the power shares are divided, an issue of principle remains: whose finger on the political trigger? Can the choice of the leader of the Labour Party be decisively influenced by trade unionists voting in the electoral college?

In fact, the "official" Communists are probably stronger



Mr Chapple: barracked.

now in terms of covert political clout than for many years. The economic recession has robbed the Communist Party of much of its traditional industrial field of play on the shopfloor. But its ability to exert power within the "Broad Left" of the Labour movement has grown apace.

On their own, the Communists can achieve nothing. Nowhere in top union echelons do they enjoy a majority. There are only two party members on the 40-strong TUC general council. There are just four on the 25-member executive committee of the National Union of Mineworkers; two sit on the nine-member executive of the train

drivers' union, the Associated Society of Locomotive Engineers and Firemen (Aslef). There are about half a dozen on the Transport and General Workers Union executive and about the same number on the executive of the National Union of Railwaysmen. Their numbers on the policy-making national committee of the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers has diminished in recent years, and in unions like the General and Municipal Workers' and the electricians their influence is negligible.

But although their numbers are small, in the Seventies' climate of Left credibility they achieved much by working through their Labour allies. Mr Michael Costello, the Communist Party industrial organizer, was a keen lobbyist in the bars at last October's conference and defends the unions' capture of power. "No new principle affecting the basis of decision-making has been taken," he said. "The unions have always been the decisive force in the Labour Party."

"The Wembley decision simply corrects an anomalous position that had become intolerable once the Parliamentary Labour Party ceased to represent the party's policies. Communists, as members of affiliated unions, have always paid the political levy and have thus been open members of the Labour Party in the sense decided by the party's founders and enshrined in the constitution."

His disingenuous explanation

of the party line will not cut much ice with Dr David Owen and his colleagues, who fear with some justice that if the trade union votes in Labour's electoral college are to be cast by union executives, then Communists and their almost unassailable allies in the Labour Party will indeed play a substantial role.

Of the risk of Fascist influence little needs to be said. The National Front has had a minimal success in infiltrating some union branches particularly in the London area among railwaymen and in postal sorting offices. But they are a social problem rather than a political force.

But the position of the Conservatives is much more ambiguous. In the first place, the party's "labour" arm, has been conducting a reasonably successful campaign to persuade Tory voters who belong to unions to opt out of paying the political levy to the Labour Party. The figures speak for themselves. More than 200,000 engineering workers out of a total membership of 1.2 million do not pay the levy. In the 130,000-strong boilermakers' society, the figure is 51,000. In the 349,000-member builders' union, the union of Construction, Allied Trades and Technicians, 149,000 have opted out. And in the private union, the Society of Graphical and Allied Trades (Sogat), 155,000 out of 205,000 have taken the same

Trade unionists who opt out

are then barred from taking part in traditional political activity such as electing delegates to the Labour Party conference to the management committees of local parties. They are obliged to remain silent when political business is conducted in the branches.

But in unions where opting out can be an uncomfortable experience (not to put too fine a point on it), Tory members who continue to pay the levy urge support for moderate leaders such as Mr Terry Duffy of the engineering workers. Where the candidates are not as well known, things are more difficult, as witnessed when Mr James Prior, then Shadow Employment Minister, voted at a meeting of his white-collar union, Apex for a candidate who did not seem to be getting much support and was on a "slate". The man turned out to be a Communist.

The general idea of the Conservative trade unionists is to encourage a shift away from "class warfare" and the policies of confrontation with Tory governments. It is admittedly a long-term strategy and it does not offer much by way of Tory influence on the inner workings of the Labour Party.

Millions of trade unionists will continue to vote Conservative, however, and if their political views do not permeate very far up the power structure of the party, their influence may be felt if union leaders convey their members' feelings before casting their electoral college votes for Labour's leader.

The practical implications of these alternatives—power exercised by Communist-influenced union leaders or by Tory-voting rank and file members—is neatly summed up by Mr John Bowis, until recently head of special affairs at Conservative Central Office. "The party has indeed got itself into a position where non-Labour supporters will have an influential say in the election of the Labour leader whichever system of electoral college voting they adopt."

Either the vote will be determined by caucus meetings at the top of the unions, and people like Mr Mick McGahey (the miners' Communist vice-president) and Mr Ken Gill (Communist general secretary of the engineering white-collar union TASS) will have a crucial say in their respective unions. Or, by balloting the union membership in some way, they will bring into the process people who support other parties but nevertheless still pay the political levy.

To "practise" unions are likely to behave as they have always behaved. Those with a tradition of consulting the members will pull into the electoral process many trade unionists who vote Tory or Liberal. Those that normally take such decisions at executive level will inevitably involve Communists and their allies. So when the decisions have been made, Mr Chapple will be seen to be right.

Paul Routledge  
Labour Editor

Bernard Levin

## Mammoth footprints seen in Piccadilly

I don't know when, or indeed whether, I have had a more depressing experience in an art gallery than that provided by the exhibition at the Royal Academy, *A New Spirit in Painting*. The title seems to me the most stupendous misnomer since the term "People's Democracies" was coined; the spirit visible on the Academy's walls is about as new as Queen Anne, the Woolly Mammoth or the political thinking of Mr Michael Foot. Hundreds and hundreds of square feet are devoted to work which is not only not new but which represents the exhausted fag-end of a tradition which was born dead and has been getting dead ever since; it is not too much to say that if you really want to know why most of the population would never dream of entering an art gallery you will find the answer roughly halfway along Piccadilly on the northern side.

There are exceptions, of course. The three Rockneys are full of light and colour, though they are below his best; a huge Matisse, *Transparence du Verre*, throws with life energy; R. B. Kira, in *The Orientalist*, reminds us that one of the most important functions of art used to be to show the humanity in humanity; Lucien Freud, though he certainly doesn't do that, offers a portrait, *The Big Man*, of outstanding vigour (and, incidentally, draughtsmanship); there are four Picassos which, though they are sub-standard ones and anyway look as though they have wandered into the place by mistake, afford a demonstration of the difference between genius and talent, to say nothing of the difference between genius and mediocrity, let alone genius and a moderate ability at the three-card trick.

There are a few more things. Balbus deserves a second glance; you can regard Francis Bacon as a significant artist, well worth giving wall-space to. If you like, though I would be obliged if you would refrain from trying to convince me of the validity of your belief: Frank Auerbach has a certain skill; Willem de Kooning is all right if you like that sort of thing (I don't actually dislike it myself). And that is just about that.

The most striking quality about most of the rest is its lifelessness: by the end of my second tour of the exhibition, I was longing for Carl Andre to come and fold a few blankets



Two Royal Academy exhibits: Lucien Freud's Head of the Big Man and Andy Warhol's portrait of David Hockney

or pile up some bricks, or for Whistler to sue Ruskin, or for the Dadaists to burst in and smash the entire place to pieces. The exhibition is a negative, *Weltschmerz*, appropriately enough, the Germans are by far the worst, and the worst of those is Markus Lüpertz, whose work calls urgently for somebody to start the Second World War all over again. And at any rate Lüpertz is saying something, even if it is something that nobody in his right mind would want to hear; but you would hardly believe,



I think that there are six works by Andy Warhol, that one-man demonstration of the triumph of publicity over art. Or that there are five of the silly scribbles of Cy Twombly. Or that there is a rectangular by Alan Charlton, seven yards wide by three high, divided horizontally into seven identical yard-wide slices, painted in an absolutely even blue-grey monochrome from end to end, which has prompted the chief ass of the three asses who have selected the exhibits to refer, in his introduction in the catalogue, to the Beckett-like loneliness of

Alan Charlton's canvases. The catalogue, apart from the contribution of the asses aforementioned (they are Christos M. Joachimides, Norman Rosenthal and Nicholas Serota, and the last of them ought to know better, being the Director of the Whitechapel Gallery), is excellent: every one of the pictures is illustrated, well over half of the reproductions being in colour, and there are ample biographical and other details, though these do not constitute an entirely unqualified blessing, as they include, in the note on a dreary Italian called Mario

Menz, a passage which I had to read twice to make sure that I had not written it myself as a parody:

Menz sought to suggest the parallel between social and economic ills and proliferation by juxtaposing such simple (even primitive) images as the 'geloo' with a neon tube 'glowed' into the numbers of Fibonacci's mathematical progression. Around 1973 he began incorporating a numerical element into the structure of the work itself. Thus, selecting a cafeteria as a typical site for human proliferation, he constructed tables that would accommodate people in groups of 1, 2, 3, 5, 8, 13, 21, 34 and 55. When this series was exhibited in the gallery of the Museum of Modern Art, Berlin the tables were used by visitors, which reveals

Menz's tendency to underline his didactic intentions by encouraging a physical or spatial interaction between the spectator and the artwork. Then there is Robert Rysman, who paints canvases plain white all over and calls them *Bridge*, *Division*, *Unit*, *Crest* and *Acme* ("Dear Marie Froops, I suffer from Acme") respectively; and there is Jean Louis, who entirely fills something like 250 square yards of paper with hundreds of more or less identical, skull-shaped ovals; there is Georg Baselitz, a painter of average Gordon Tracer Gallery Christmas-card quality whose contribution to civilisation lies not in the pictures but in the fact that he has had them hung upside-down, thus inevitably leading

to the conclusion that he is doing so the artist "not only liberated himself from the bonds of a traditional conception of painting but took up, by this affront, a position of resistance within the context of art."

Now you can disagree with any or all of these judgments of mine; they are as subjective as anybody else's. But what in the name of Giotto is new about any of this? More to the point, where is the spirit? What spirit is suggested by Dieter Flacker's picture of what seems to be one gentleman about to set fire to the hair of another? Or of Howard Hodgkin's mainly red rectangle, in which can be discerned what look like the ends of sawn firewood logs, which is entitled *The Green Chateau*? Or of Jean Hellon's pleasant and colourful trivialities?

"There is one thing," murmured a fellow-sufferer, "most of the pictures are so big that you can stand at the end of the room and see them all well enough to decide that you don't want a closer look." But I did take a closer look, and came out by the same door as I went in. It may be that there aren't as many as 150 pictures, anywhere by any means, that add up to a coherent statement of any interesting general tendency. But in that case, the solution would have been to wait until some such tendency made itself apparent, rather than cobble up this implausible suggestion that the new spirit in painting is only the old dead spirit exhumed in its worst, shrouded form.

Times Newspapers Limited, 1981.

## The danger of holding trials on camera

The United States has taken an unfortunate step towards denying defendants in criminal cases the option of having what they consider to be an unprejudiced trial. A decision of the Supreme Court on Monday upheld the constitutional right of states to allow television coverage of criminal trials, even if the accused objected.

Some 21 states at present allow television access to trials, although 10 of them require the accused's consent to such coverage. Following the Supreme Court's decision, it will now be open to all states to give the go-ahead to televised reporting of trials.

The case was brought to the Supreme Court by two Miami policemen accused of burglary. At the time of their trial, Florida was conducting a one-year experiment (since made permanent) of television coverage of court proceedings. British viewers saw some of the results of that in the BBC 2 series, *Circuit II*, Miami, in 1979.

The Supreme Court failed to find any evidence that the trial of the two men had been tainted by television coverage, let alone that all television reporting of trials would be prejudicial. The decision stressed that it would always be open

to accused to appeal from a jury verdict on the grounds of prejudice caused by the presence of the cameras, or by the accounts given in broadcast news items.

Chief Justice Warren Burger, in a decision adopted by six of the eight judges (the other two agreed with the result but wrote separate opinions) said that merely because there is possible prejudice to a defendant in having the trial covered by television did not make that form of reporting unconstitutional. There might be similar prejudice in written reports, but they were not prohibited. On the surface, that reason-

ing does not seem unreasonable. But anyone who has seen the effect of the television cameras on the conduct of criminal trials would find considerable cause to doubt that.

In the Miami series, everyone clearly played to the cameras. Judges, lawyers on both sides, witnesses and the accused. The trials thus televised were significantly different in nature to what they would have been had the cameras not been there, represented only the printed word.

The news bulletins shown every day of a trial's highlights would have had far greater impact on radio or newspaper summaries of the same proceed-

ings. In short, the trials were distorted by the presence of television, and by the knowledge that excerpts were going to be shown state-wide, or even, in the case, was spectacular enough nationally.

All this could be justified if the accused were themselves happy about having their trials televised. What the Supreme Court has done is to allow the state authorities to impose television coverage over the objections of protesting accused. That cannot be good for the reputation of American justice.

Marcel Berins  
Legal Correspondent

## LONDON DIARY

### Hard labour for short sharp sentences

You know how it is there early in the morning in Hampstead with the bus stop full of people against the trees of the Heath: before even the dustcarts come by with plastic sacks for the dustbins? Well, we came up from Camden Town and we heard it. All around. The automatic fire.

"Remingtons," Harry said, pretty mean. "And Imperials and an Adler portable. And an IBM golfball with electric carriage return."

Harry knew. He had been trying for a year to make it with a broad from the council typing pool.

Harry sprang to his feet and smashed the big guy's jaw. "Speak English," he snarled. The big guy slumped in a corner, real heavy. "It's the Fourth International Imitation Hemingway Competition," he said. He spat out two teeth. Seek inspiration. The words will come quick, clean and true."

Harry punched him in the stomach. "More," he said. "The facts."

"They will pick the winner from those who have followed the rules: a one-page parody of Hemingway. The big guy wiped blood."

"And you have to mention Harry's Bar. Nice. Harry will fly the winner to his bar in Los Angeles. For dinner. For two."

Some will be funny. All will be judged. His son Jack Hemingway will preside. Ray Bradbury will help. There will be dialogue, character sketches, action scenes. Harry will keep them all.

"Time passes, my friend. The Big Ring closes on February 15. The judges wait. Let me return to my keyboard."

They left. We left. Harry knew a place. We went in. Harry ordered two Spanish absinthes. He spent a long time staring into the bright liquid

winking in his glass, catching the reflection of the MacDonald's hamburger sign. At last he spoke.

"They're certainly doing it in earnest up here," he said.

There is good news for those who agree with Kipling that a woman is no match for a good cigar. Derek Harris, chairman of one of our leading Havana cigar importers who has just returned from the Caribbean, reports that the Cubans have finally defeated the blue mould fungus which decimated their last two tobacco harvests. Thanks to finding an effective herbicide, they are about to harvest one of the best crops for many years.

Good Havanas have been in short supply recently, although the Cubans have been doing their best to keep up supplies to Britain, one of their most prized markets.

The fruits of this year's bumper crop should be in British shops next year, but there is a catch. The cost to Cuba of eradicating the pest has meant that cigar prices will rise by about 12 per cent almost immediately, and there is the additional threat that the Chancellor will impose a sub-

stantial increase in tobacco duty in the March budget. Still, I don't suppose Lord Grade will be reduced to Woodbines.

### Waning

In an opinion poll announced yesterday, Mrs Thatcher notched up second place ahead of Ayatollah Khomeini and Idi Amin, but failed to snatch the lead from Adolf Hitler.

However the Prime Minister need not lose too much sleep over the results, astonishing though they may be; they are merely the outcome of the latest annual survey by Madame Tussaud's in London to discover who are the most feared and hated figures in the world.

The Ayatollah, who was last year's clear winner, has been toppled to fourth place. While elevating Hitler to a pinnacle of massiveness, the voters deserted Churchill, last year's number one "hero of all time", replacing him with Superman. The late John Lennon has displaced Bjorn Borg, who nevertheless remains the favourite test sportsman. No one, no matter how elevated, is safe from the vagaries of the Tussaud voters. Even the Queen has been knocked from her perch in fifth place by

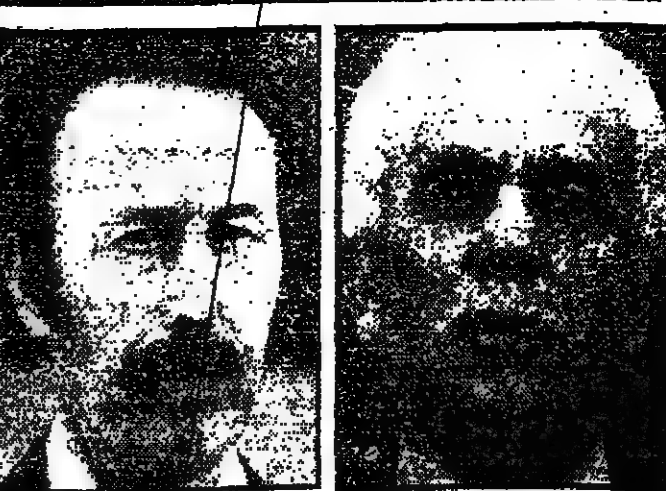
Larry Hagman, the horrid citizen of Dallas. Fame sure is a fleeting thing.

### Facade lift

One of the earliest indications that the Prime Minister and the lately deposed Leader of the Commons did not see eye to eye on every conceivable subject occurred more than a year ago when Norman gave qualified but unmistakable approval to a new scheme for offices for his fellow MPs. The building, designed by Sir Hugh Casson, would have cost an estimated £12m, and within hours an indignant Mrs Thatcher declared that the nation could not possibly afford such luxuries.

But that being so, what now happens to the buildings on the site, in Bridge Street, which will stay where they are for the foreseeable future? Although one of them, St Stephen's House, was recently taken over for use by Parliamentary staff serving the new Commons select committees, the remainder is either empty or let on short leases. The freehold is owned by the Crown, but the idea that they might be converted quite cheaply to serve the needs of

our overcrowded legislators appears not to have been considered. Moreover, the facades are shabby and dirty and can hardly do much to impress the millions of tourists who visit



The late President Boumediene—Utopian hope; and President Chadli—time for concessions.

## Algeria gains from facing up to reality

Two great clenched fists ripping apart the frail chain which has sought to juggle their symbolism. Algeria. The hands are carved on to the face of the bulky sandstone monument which rises impressively out of the gardens running down the centre of the Boulevard Kheimech in the heart of modern Algiers.

They epitomize to Algerians the birth—or rebirth—of their nation and inspire their country's foreign policy. It is a foreign policy which has brought Western Europe to its knees, and even derision in the past. It is a foreign policy which today has the credit of having enabled the release of 15 American hostages held by Iran.

It was Algerian understanding of how the hostages must have yearned for freedom and Algerian understanding of the motivation behind the Islamic revolution in Iran, which made the country possibly the only one in the world emotionally fitted to act as intermediary between two diametrically opposed nations.

The eighty-year-long bloody war of independence—which the average Frenchman still remembers as a series of atrocities—was for the Algerians an heroic struggle against a hated foreign invader.

Since independence in 1962, Algeria has not been short of problems, particularly economic ones, but there is little or no nostalgia among the people for the days of the colonial past. Rather there is an on-going pride and joy in being independent.

The result of that is that from the earliest days of nationhood Algeria made it a policy to give uncompromising support to all liberation movements. It was a support which cost the new nation dearly in esteem, especially when so much Western opinion was still shocked by the violence which had surrounded independence.

Algeria's reputation as a supporter of dissidents made it the inevitable and favourite airport destination for many hijackers. The reputation became somewhat grotesque, perhaps, as Algeria more and more spoke out for some of the more outlandish independence movements.

Since these independence movements tended to be largely against what the Algerians identified as "western colonial imperialism" a growing interest in the country developed in the Soviet bloc, which began to woo the reluctant President Boumediene. The wooing has gone on and has been largely with guns and other weaponry.

At the same time trade with the Soviet bloc remained, and still remains, at only a tiny level. The main trading partner of Algeria was the United States, with the EEC countries jointly running a good second. Despite its professed socialist tendencies, Algeria has always known where it can best get the capital it needs to achieve the economic independence it is still trying to achieve.

As yet, Algeria is not really independent. It has an external debt estimated at some \$20,000m, against which its only developed asset is its large natural gas oil and the oil reserves. Between them they contribute 95 per cent of all Algerian earnings from the world. If the country is to develop fast enough to keep up

with its rapidly expanding population it will have to diversify.

This is why, since 1973, Algeria has taken the lead in pressure from the Third World countries to set up what it terms "a new international order" to change the relationship between the poor and the rich nations.

To President Boumediene this "new order" was an attainable Utopia. Since his death two years ago a new spirit of realism has crept in. President Chadli still champions the cause of the "new order" but pending its establishment he has given clear indications that Algeria is prepared to make concessions to the existing order.

Relations with the United States have been steadily improved—not least because negotiations of the contract for selling gas to the United States are dragging on. Late last year the United States frigate Edward Macdonald paid a goodwill visit to Oras and was given a splendid welcome. Prompt and generous American aid following the El Asnam earthquake have been much appreciated by the whole population.

The Queen's visit to the country last year was also a great success, and her visit in the earthquake area was wide praise. The climate is right for a British trade initiative.

This is even more the case because French influence is tangibly receding, albeit very slowly.

At the same time, President Chadli has shown himself amenable to overtures from France for a more friendly relationship, as he has to neighbouring Tunisia and Morocco. Indeed the threat of open war with Morocco over the Western Sahara, which was always present in the days of Boumediene, has receded.

There are signs, too, that the Soviet bloc is less welcome than it used to be. Behind this lies the selfsame spirit of independence, which dominates the national character.

Algeria has made its displeasure about the invasion of Afghanistan known to the Soviet powers. In this it has remained true to its vocation of champion of liberation causes, which has meant that Algeria has so often in the past been the chosen meeting place for settling disputes. It must be one of the only cities in the world with both a boulevard Che Guevara and an Avenue Franklin Roosevelt.

The huge, modern El Aurassi Hotel which dominates part of the city's skyline, has seen peace signed between Portuguese and Angolan rebels, between the Polisario and Mauritania, between the Shah and Iraq. The country had a tradition of acting as host to settlements for some time before the hostages were taken prisoner. Some officials talk optimistically now of being able to mediate in the present war between Iran and Iraq.

What the hostage negotiations have done, however, is make the world at large believe in Algeria's ability to referee. "We did this for humanitarian reasons," an official explained after the hostage agreement was read out in the Aurassi. "All we want in return is a little respect."

Ian Murray





## IT MIGHT HAVE BEEN WORSE

The recession is slowing down, but it is not over yet. That is the clear picture which emerges from the latest set of unemployment figures and the report on the economic situation from the Confederation of British Industry. Hopes of an upturn during the current year remain distinctly fragile.

The unemployment figures are slightly less bad than might have been feared. There is a five week period before the January count for the number of unemployed. The increase in the underlying level of unemployment during that period was 103,000, little more than during the previous four weeks. The figures contain neither slight straws of hope for the Government, all of which point to the conclusion that the increase in unemployment is certainly not accelerating and may even be slowing down.

Such a conclusion would be consistent with the evidence which is beginning to emerge on the pattern of output at the end of last year. It now looks likely that the drop in national output which occurred so precipitately during the summer may have eased off at the end of the year. The CBI survey of business opinion suggests that the run-down of stocks which played

such a key role in this may now be past its worst. It is not safe to conclude from this, however, that output has now reached bottom and that it will start to pick up from now on. De-stocking is slowing down, but it is not yet over. The economy is having to make a painful adjustment to a lower level of output overall.

It makes little sense for anyone, least of all the Government, to become obsessed by the detail of just when the absolute bottom in output will be reached and when the upturn will start. Such forecasts are exceedingly difficult to get right and of little practical consequence.

What is clear is that at some point during the current year output will stabilize. It may then rise, but only gently. The increase in unemployment which has been such a feature of the past year will slow down quite markedly, although—given past performance in productivity—the total output of work must be expected to go on rising for the foreseeable future.

These are the bad sides of the economic situation. The good side is that inflation is definitely falling faster than even the Government is yet willing to recognize. It now seems probable that at some point during the

current year inflation will fall well into single figures. The underlying rate over the past six months, traditionally the best guide to trends, has already dropped to that level.

The decline in the rate of inflation is not solely the result of sterling's continued strength. Domestic costs, particularly wages, are beginning to respond to the new climate. The Government can thus reasonably hope that it is in sight of achieving a sustained fall in inflation as long as its current policies are pursued. The problem is that a continuation of a tight policy makes it relatively unlikely that there will be the sort of growth in output and living standards which governments traditionally feel they need in the years before an election.

In addition, this approach imposes severe structural strains on the economy. The manufacturing sector of industry has already been exposed to severe competition from abroad. This will worsen as long as sterling remains strong. In this situation, the Chancellor should be giving urgent attention to the need to be changing the balance of the economy so that sections such as manufacturing bear less of the burden.

## COALITION TREMORS IN BONN

Three months after its clear election victory, West Germany's coalition government has still not got into its stride. The election was a vote of confidence in the coalition formula, the alliance between the Social Democrats (SPD) and the Free Democrats (FDP), and in the leadership of Herr Schmidt, the Chancellor. But it altered the balance within the coalition by significantly increasing the number of votes that went to the FDP, while only giving the SPD a marginal increase. Consequently the FDP claimed, and has received, greater influence on government policy; but that in its turn has caused resentment on the left wing of the SPD, which is itself larger in the new Bundestag. So instead of a sense of a renewal and of new horizons, there has been a feeling of malaise in Bonn for the past few months, the latest sign of which was this week's abortive attempt by the left wing of the SPD to have the defence budget reduced by 1,000 million Marks.

It is not the first time that a new German government has had initial difficulties of this sort. Four years ago, at the beginning of the last legislature, the two coalition partners had some trouble in resolving their differences; but by the end they were working well together.

This time, however, the situation is more tense than before, and there have been suggestions that the coalition might fall apart, with the FDP either forming an alliance with the Christian Democrats or going into opposition and leaving the two large parties to form a grand coalition. For the time being either of these developments seems most unlikely. The FDP has done extremely well out of its alliance with the Social Democrats—it was seen by its supporters in the election as serving as a moderate brake on leftist tendencies in the SPD—and it could jeopardize its gains by changing its tactics. Its leaders have shown no sign of wanting to get out.

The question is whether Herr Schmidt and Herr Genscher, the FDP leader, can pull the coalition together and get it working more smoothly. One of the main immediate challenges is the situation in West Berlin, where the two parties are in coalition and where the previous Mayor, Herr Dietrich Stobbe, was recently forced to resign because of a financial scandal. Berlin, the former capital, has a special significance for Germany, and it was felt to be extremely important for the coalition not to lose power there. So Dr Hans Jochen Vogel, formerly Minister of Justice in Bonn and seen as Herr Schmidt's own chosen successor,

has been installed as Mayor; and the hope is that he will be able to hold the city for the coalition in the forthcoming elections in spite of a strong challenge from the Christian Democrats.

West Germany's allies are bound to wonder whether the coalition's difficulties are likely to affect foreign policy, and particularly the decision to install the new medium-range nuclear missiles in Germany, in view of the campaign against them by the SPD left wing. There is no reason to think that they will. Herr Schmidt is firmly committed to a policy of matching Soviet weapons, if only as a basis for disarmament negotiations, and he has great experience in dealing with his own left wing. More to the point is the question whether, with President Reagan now in office in Washington, German-American relations can be raised from the low level to which they sank during the Carter administration. The Germans are strongly committed to a policy of improved relations with Eastern Europe, and they are apprehensive that a more militant policy from Washington might jeopardize that. But there is no reason to fear that they are about to become doubtful members of the alliance, and the new American Administration will secure their cooperation more easily if they recognize this.

## TIME FOR THE TIN POUND

It is well that Sir Geoffrey Howe has brought the desultory old argument about whether we need a one-pound coin to an end at last; otherwise the inevitably ensuing argument about whether the Royal Mint should continue to weigh our pockets down with coins of such small value might have trodden too close on its heels. Already the pound sterling buys only half as much as the fifty-pence piece originally did in 1969; by 1983, when the proposed coin is to be issued, its purchasing power (assuming a 20 per cent inflation rate, perhaps unfairly) may be about the same as that of a two-shilling piece of twenty years ago. What we should be talking about is not the tin pound but the tin fiver.

Of course we already have a one-pound coin, exempt from these humiliating fluctuations. The gold sovereign, still struck today, is already worth more than 50 times its nominal value; opinions differ over whether this uniquely qualifies or disqualifies

it as a basis for a monetary system. Changes in value are not straightforward in any case. Rawdon Crawley, visiting his son's school in the 1820s in Vanity Fair, sagaciously tipped Master Blackball a sovereign to win his goodwill towards the younger boy. Rawdon was seldom flush with cash, but free with it when he had it. Jos Sedley was quite the reverse, yet even he, some 20 years earlier, had handed over half a guinea to the schoolboy George Osborne, although the latter had just ruined Jos's Hessian boots. Even in those days, such gifts must have been convertible into astronomical numbers of cream buns; probably the equivalent of several weeks' pay for a labourer. Any comparison with the tariff at a present-day comprehensive is unreal: not even Master Blackball's sovereign could buy him a turn at Space Invaders.

It would be tempting to propose that the new coin should bring back into everyday circulation the splendid Regency

image of St. George and the dragon which Pistrucci designed in 1816 (the model for St. George was an Italian servant at a hotel in Leicester Square; it is not recorded who sat for the dragon). The fifty-pence piece successfully revived Britannia in this way. But if, as proposed, the new coin is to be of the same diameter as the sovereign and yellow in colour, it is important that there should be no possibility of its being passed off as a redesigned version of the gold coin.

The two new additions to the coinage will give a depressingly ad hoc air to the range, with no less than four distinct species of coin: brown, white and yellow, discs and oblate heptagons. The first government that really conquers inflation should mark its triumph with a comprehensive redesign of the coinage. In view of the execrably insipid design of the reverses of almost every British coin in the last fifty years, fresh images could hardly fail to be an improvement.

## Criminal procedure moves

From Sir David Napley  
Sir, The Philips commission on criminal procedure suggests that in place of committal for trial there be substituted an application for discharge. A majority (the ratio is not revealed) doubted on such an application "whether the magistrates need to take their decision on the basis of oral evidence tested under cross-examination". It is hoped that neither the suggestion nor the convoluted reasoning on which it is based will be accepted.

"Magistrates", they rightly observe, "are reluctant to dismiss cases and over 2,000 or just over 2 per cent of those committed for trial are discharged in the crown court" for insufficient evidence. That figure is probably low, but means, if the average cost of a case for both sides is £750, a loss of public or private money of £1,500,000 every year and, if each case lasts approximately half a full day, wastage of four to eight years' court time, whilst congestion in some crown courts is still a matter of concern. Add that "ordered and directed acquittals in the crown court for insufficient evidence in 1978 were over 40 per cent nationally and as high as 54 per cent in one area", and it argues not for weakening, but strengthening the sifting process.

The commission rightly regrets the lack of effective scrutiny of the case by the prosecution and the defence and the failure of prosecution

witnesses "to give evidence in a satisfactory manner". They might have added that over many years the attitude of the lay magistracy to commitments has been half-hearted, dispiriting and mere routine.

It is inconsistent to assert: "so far as possible no one should be required to stand trial in the absence of good cause" whilst believing that this principle can be protected by reference alone to written statements prepared by the police. They are often unreliable, and frequently contain as positive statements of fact no more than rationalizations between the intended witness and the police officer of what the witness is assisted to recall; the unreliability of the statement can be demonstrated only by cross-examination.

Often, other facts absent from the statement can only be elicited by cross-examination, throwing a wholly different complexion on the statement, or enabling further investigation to be made in the limited time available to the defence. There are also other important aspects too lengthy to mention.

A meaningful examination of the quality of the evidence when tested by cross-examination, and committal proceedings, competently conducted, are often vital to the outcome of the ultimate trial.

Finally, committal proceedings should only be heard by those who are robust, experienced and knowledgeable enough to recognize those cases which should and should not be sent for trial. If that is achieved they should be left as they are. Yours truly, DAVID NAPLEY, Kingsley, Napley and Company, 107-115 Long Acre, WC2, January 20.

## The cost of dying

From Mrs Elisabeth Goodwin  
Sir, I recently helped a friend make funeral arrangements for a deceased relative and was horrified to learn that the cost of the cheapest coffin (not the funeral!) was £286. As my friend's relative was to be cremated, presumably the coffin also would be cremated?

As I approach my three score years and ten, would it not be a good investment to buy my coffin now. Yours faithfully, ELISABETH GOODWIN, Flar 3, Thelton Crossbush, Arundel, West Sussex, January 22.

## Criminal attempts at the impossible

From Professor J. A. Andrews and others

Sir, When opening the debate on the Criminal Attempts Bill (Report, January 20), the Home Secretary expressed the belief that it would clarify the law, but in this he was, unfortunately, been misadvised. The issue relates to impossible attempts.

At present it is a crime to attempt or conspire to commit a crime, with one major exception. People who try or plan to commit crimes are not guilty of attempt or conspiracy if it turns out that, owing to a mistake of fact on their part, the crime is impossible of commission. So (it seems) the following are untouched by the law: a handbag that turns out to be empty; one who shoots through a skylight at what he thinks is a policeman when there is no one on the roof; a terrorist who, thinking that he is acquiring explosives, is given a substance that will not explode because of the lack of an essential ingredient; men who set up a plant for extracting cocaine illegally from a substance that turns out to have no cocaine in it.

It is true that some attempts are not worth prosecuting, but, on any formulation, the law of attempt and conspiracy will include some trivial cases and it is impossible as a matter of drafting to leave such cases out merely because they are pretty harmless. The police do not prosecute attempts except in matters of gravity, and would be unlikely to bring charges where an attempt

is laughably inept. The Law Commission's well-drafted proposal therefore met with approval by all those who wrote upon it in the legal journals.

Almost inexplicably, the Bill now presented by the Government substantially modifies it. The Bill is vague and self-contradictory, that it is passed as it stands its effect will not be settled until after a number of expensive appeals. However, it appears from Home Office statements that the Department's intention is that the pickpocket and marksman should be convicted, but that the cocaine manufacturer and terrorist, and various other people should be exempt.

We are professors of law who naturally wish the law to be clear, rational and effective. We think that the present Bill fails in the first two respects and quite possibly in the third. It falls short of minimum standards of clarity. Further, we think that it will not have the effect intended by the Home Office unless its provisions are read in a logically unsatisfactory way. In any case we much prefer both: the policy and the drafting of the Law Commission's proposal.

We hope that the present provisions will be amended, preferably on the Government's initiative, to bring them back to the Law Commission's proposals.

Yours faithfully,  
J. A. ANDREWS,  
University of Wales,  
D. W. ELLIOTT,  
University of Newcastle,  
EDWARD GREW,  
University of Leicester,  
BRIAN HOGAN,  
University of Leeds,  
SIDNEY PREVEZER,  
University of Sussex,  
J. C. SMITH,  
University of Nottingham,  
DONALD THOMPSON,  
University of Keele,  
GLANVILLE WILLIAMS,  
University of Cambridge,  
Jesus College,  
Cambridge.

## Serving democracy

From Lady Bridges

Sir, While not disagreeing with Mr John Silkin (Whitehall brief, January 20) that the Civil Service is "by its nature slow to act" (p. 10), whether that is always a bad thing may be debatable. I must beg to differ from his view that the "battle" would be between "politicians who are democratically elected and the civil servants who are not".

The process by which political candidates are elected can be and sometimes is marred by practices which are far from being democratic; while our anachronistic electoral system produces results that distort rather than reflect the will of the majority.

Civil servants are not, of course, elected; but I hope Mr Silkin would agree that their appointment at all levels is as open and fair as any in the world, and that there are plenty of watchdogs ready to bark at any alleged discrimination or failure of integrity. The selection of its most senior officers is inevitably more subjective, but there are enough checks and balances, including the preferences of min-

isters and the periodic swing of the political pendulum, to ensure the representation in its higher ranks of a wide range of views stopping short of daily of those that are either searctic or totalitarian. Writing as a former civil servant, the wife of one, and daughter of another whose greatest pride was his contribution to the introduction of the Lloyd George Insurance Act, I know for a fact that whatever its imperfections, the Civil Service contains many men and women glad to receive and put forward new ideas, and to subject them to careful constructive scrutiny.

Democracy is a much abused word today. To those with no special axe to grind it means, amongst other things, that Government should reflect the highest common factor in the opinions and aspirations of us, the people. I suggest that judged by this standard rather than solely by selection through the counting of votes, the Civil Service will be found to be at least as "democratic" as are its political masters.

Yours sincerely,  
RACHEL BRIDGES,  
Flat 5,  
15 Drycote Place, SW3.

## Steps to aid Zimbabwe

From the Chairman of the Wellcome Foundation

Sir, The letter from Sir Martin La Quenne (January 19) advocates the very important and laudable aim of providing the people of Zimbabwe with the best of our medical, veterinary science, agriculture and nursing. The only criteria we suggested for candidates for these bursaries were: sufficient academic achievement, leadership qualities and need.

We have undertaken to award these bursaries annually for the next 10 years and hopefully they will therefore make available nearly 200 middle management trained personnel.

The essence of what we did had absolutely no strings attached: selection of candidates for the bursaries and the subsequent monitoring of progress will be made by the authorized colleges and places of learning.

There is no doubt as to the need for which Sir Martin writes and from our experience, there is no doubt that, if help is given, it is greatly appreciated. Yours faithfully, A. J. SHEPPERD, Chairman, The Wellcome Foundation Ltd, The Wellcome Building, 183 Euston Road, NW1, January 23.

## Labour's future

From Mr P. M. Williams

Sir, Very likely before long some "social democrats" will be outside the Labour Party and others in. Such situations have in the past usually led to bitter recriminations between those who go and those who stay, damaging the reputation and weakening the influence of both. Already these are beginning.

Yet the two groups agree, with one another far more than with the associates they will retain or acquire. They will evoke a nostalgic evocation of the same symbolic figures: Hugh Gaitskell and Anthony Crosland (I write as the biographer of one and a lifelong friend of the other).

Both groups need to remember how many good causes they still both favour; to realize how badly those causes need their combined support; to resist the temptation to justify their own decisions by vilifying those of the others; to keep open lines of communication in the present and prospects of cooperation in the future. Both will face a new situation in one year, or two, or three, as the worst fears that they share come to be fulfilled or disavowed.

Each will be under pressure meanwhile to concentrate its fire on the other. The more that either group succumbs that pressure, the more their common enemies will benefit.

Yours faithfully,  
PHILIP WILLIAMS,  
Nuffield College,  
Oxford,  
January 26.

ness and as one of the ways of commemorating it, we inaugurated in Zimbabwe 19 bursaries, including medicine, veterinary science, agriculture and nursing. The only criteria we suggested for candidates for these bursaries were: sufficient academic achievement, leadership qualities and need.

We have undertaken to award these bursaries annually for the next 10 years and hopefully they will therefore make available nearly 200 middle management trained personnel.

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There is no doubt as to the need for which Sir Martin writes and from our experience, there is no doubt that, if help is given, it is greatly appreciated. Yours faithfully, A. J. SHEPPERD, Chairman, The Wellcome Foundation Ltd, The Wellcome Building, 183 Euston Road, NW1, January 23.

If it were to be formed, nevertheless believe that in our democratic society it would be a vitally important part to play in meeting the challenge of, fundamentally, undemocratic extremism, and that in meeting this threat all other political considerations pale into relative insignificance.

If such a party is to be formed with any chance of success it will require the promise of the widest possible financial support from all such people. In alliance with the Liberal Party it might then bring about that change in the electoral system which alone can banish the threat of extremist totalitarian government for ever.

I remain, Sir, an independent peer and also your obedient servant,  
STAMP,  
House of Lords,  
January 24.

From Mr Russell Johnston, MP for Inverness (Liberal)  
Sir, The weekend's events, plus the very lucid interview of Mr Michael Foot by Mr Brian Walden on television, had the great merit of bringing sharply into focus the major issues about which the social democrats in the Labour Party are in disagreement with the Labour Party's official policy, as determined in conference and confirmed by its new leader on behalf of its parliamentary party.

Apart from Constitutional matters these are the mixed economy, our future in or out of Europe and collective defence (or multilateralism versus unilateralism).

Could someone please tell me what they disagree with the Liberal Party about?

Yours faithfully,  
RUSSELL JOHNSTON,  
House of Commons,  
January 26.

## Missgivings on Nationality Bill

From the General Secretary of the Joint Council for the Welfare of Immigrants

Sir, I was in India when the British Nationality Bill was published. There are a number of white citizens of the United Kingdom and colonies resident in India; they will become British citizens if the Bill is passed. There are also a number of citizens of the United Kingdom and colonies of Indian descent in India, mostly people born or registered as such in East and Central Africa, and holding no other nationality: they will almost all become British overseas citizens.

Some 5,000 of them have applied for special vouchers to settle in Britain: they are having to wait for nearly five and a half years before being issued with vouchers, and the Home Office Minister, Mr Timothy Raison, in a letter to Lord Avebury written since the Bill was published, has effectively confirmed that it is the Government's intention to allow that waiting period to continue to grow.

I talked over the last three weeks to hundreds of those in India who are thus excluded and who will become British overseas citizens. The Government's intention to believe that the intended change in their nationality status will make little difference to them, because the special voucher scheme will continue, I doubtfully passed on this assurance, but it is not easy for someone who has seen the Government's intention to believe that the intended change in their nationality status will make little difference to them, because the special voucher scheme will continue, I doubtfully passed on this assurance, but it is not easy for someone who has seen the Government's intention to believe that the intended change in their nationality status will make little difference to them, because the special voucher scheme will continue, I doubtfully passed on this assurance, but it is not easy for someone who has seen the Government's intention to believe that the intended change in their nationality status will make little difference to them, because the special voucher scheme will continue, I doubtfully passed on this assurance, 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Alberta set  
to turn off  
the taps,  
page 19

# THE TIMES

## BUSINESS NEWS

Job losses  
show no sign  
of easing,  
page 18

- Stock markets**  
FT Ind 467.4, up 5.5  
FT Gilt 69.04, up 0.18
- Sterling**  
\$2.4075, down 118 pts  
Index 81.2, up 0.2
- Dollar**  
Index 88.0, up 0.2  
DM2.0720, up 178 pts
- Gold**  
\$517.50, down \$12
- Money**  
3 mth sterling 14 1/4-15 1/4  
3 mth Euro \$ 18 1/4-19 1/4  
6 mth Euro \$ 17 1/4-18 1/4

### Curbs on commodities and gold in Bahrain

Bahrain, whose relatively liberal approach to offshore business has made it the financial centre of the Gulf, is to introduce tighter controls on gold and commodity brokers.

Mr Ibrahim Abdul-Karim, Bahrain's finance minister, said yesterday that the new regulations could include capital requirements, financial guarantees from head offices, and the quality of staff.

The new regulations will be drawn up and enforced by the Bahrain Monetary Agency, the island state's central bank. Its powers can be extended to all financial institutions, although so far they have mainly applied only to banks.

In future, commodity brokers will have to be approved by the agency, and existing companies will have to meet the same requirements.

**ATV diversification**

ATV, the Midlands commercial television company, will lodge proposals to diversify its shareholdings by the end of the week. The company, which is owned by Lord Grade's ACC, has been told by the Independent Broadcasting Authority to reduce its shareholding to 51 per cent and find a new name in order to retain its franchise.

**\$10m investment trust**

New Darion Oil Trust, a \$10m investment trust, is to come to the market next month through an offer for subscription of 10 million shares at 100p. Clients of Phillips & Drew, brokers to the issue, will apply for five million shares.

**Chinese accountancy**

Coopers & Lybrand, the international accounting firm, has been authorized to work in China under regulations introduced in November last year. It will be the first foreign accountancy group to do so.

**MFI profits cut**

MFI, the cut-price furniture retailer, saw its interim pre-tax profits cut by a third to \$4.9m. This was despite a boost in sales from £56m to £90m, largely from the acquisition of the Status Discount chain last year.

**\$60m road savings**

Savings of up to £60m a year for the United Kingdom road transport industry could be achieved by fitting unbreakable external mirrors, according to Spafax, the industrial components group.

**Italian steel posts**

The Italian Government has begun to tackle the crisis in the public sector steel industry by appointing Signor Mario Costa as chairman, and Signor Sergio Magliola as managing director, of Italsider, Italy's biggest steel-maker.

**Wall Street higher**

The Dow Jones industrial average closed 10.58 points up at 949.49. The S&P 500 was 1.2846. The £ was 0.521209.

## Industry outlook still bleak despite slowdown of recession

Patricia Tiedall  
Management Correspondent

Prospects for manufacturing industry continue to be very bleak, according to the Confederation of British Industry's interpretation yesterday of its latest business trends survey.

Mr James Cleminson, chairman of the CBI's economic situation committee, said: "Our only consolation from the present survey is that things are getting worse more slowly."

The survey confirms that a definite easing in the rate of decline has occurred in the last few months.

However, Mr Cleminson said that company orders, output and employment were all worse than they were when the last survey—described as the "blackest ever"—was carried out in October. The position is expected to deteriorate further during the next quarter.

CBI leaders are still trying to convince government ministers of the damage which the high sterling exchange rate is causing to industry. They are continuing to plead for a further cut in minimum lending rate. They take no comfort from the survey findings which show that the proportion of manufacturers who are pessimistic about business prospects has dropped from 58 per cent in October to 33 per cent.

Investment continues to be "very weak indeed", said Mr Cleminson. Since there is an average delay of 12 months between authorisation for investment and expenditure, the impact of the recession inevitably will continue well into 1982. The CBI forecasts a fall of 15 per cent in manufacturing investment during 1981, with the decline continuing at the same rate to the middle of 1982.

Uncertainty about demand and inadequate return on new investment are the two main reasons given by manufacturers for curbing their capital expenditure.

Mr Cleminson says it is not surprising that investment intentions remain at an extremely low level since "real profitability" (excluding North Sea oil business) is expected to fall to 2 per cent or less during 1981.

While some sectors have improved, orders books generally speak with 75 per cent of manufacturers assessing their



Mr. Cleminson: investment still very weak.

workload at below normal levels.

There has been no change in the 84 per cent of companies who report that they are working below capacity. This represents the highest incidence of below-capacity working since the survey was introduced in 1958. However it represents the first check to the rapid spread of under-utilization since July 1979.

While stocks are continuing to be reduced at a rapid rate, 32 per cent of companies still consider their stocks of finished goods to be more than adequate.

"I had hoped there might have been a somewhat better figure on stockpiling," Mr Cleminson said. "We must recognize that there are to be further sharp reductions in stock and that the bottom of the recession will not be signalled until this occurs."

Stock reductions are being achieved through price cuts. Many manufacturers are holding price increases well below the growth in costs, with consequent squeeze on profitability. Export orders and deliveries have weakened but expectations for the next four months suggest smaller falls.

Despite effectively static export prices, 81 per cent of exporters still quote prices relative to those of overseas competitors as a constraint to new contracts.

## UK urged to sign computer convention

By Kenneth Owen  
Technology Editor

The British Computer Society has called on the Government to declare its intention to be a party to the Council of Europe's Convention on the protection of individuals with regard to automatic processing of personal data.

The convention is due to open the convention for signature today. Norway, Sweden, Denmark and France have each enacted legislation and are ready to sign.

Austria, Germany and Luxembourg are in position to sign and are considering their position. The remaining countries, including Britain, have not yet enacted legislation in this area.

The convention sets a basis for introducing parallel legislation throughout Europe to protect the privacy of personal information in the age of computer-based information systems.

The British Computer Society said that Britain had a well-deserved reputation as a leader in the development and application of computer technology. But it had fallen behind in establishing control and direction over the way personal information was used. This could inhibit the continued development of computing techniques in support of economic, social and political development.

"In particular, there is an increasing amount of data flowing between countries, and the United Kingdom must show itself willing and able to co-operate with its international partners in such activities," it said.

"We must be able to demonstrate to our European partners that we are able to protect their data when it is handled in the United Kingdom."

The Government's Data Protection Committee had made recommendations on this in December 1978, but no action had been taken. "The initiative of the Council of Europe presents an opportunity for the United Kingdom to join the international movement in data protection, and the British Computer Society recommends that the United Kingdom declares its intention to sign the convention," the society said.

This would mean that controls would have to be introduced in the management of data by user organizations to ensure its protection. The society was ready to establish the necessary standards and to set up a national certification scheme to provide these controls.

## Mr Reagan signals big cut in taxes

From Frank Vogl  
Washington, Jan 26

Big tax cuts will be announced by President Reagan in an economic policy message to the Congress on February 17 or 18, according to Mr Donald Regan, Secretary of the Treasury.

He said the Administration's economic strategy would consist of cutting taxes, sharply reducing public spending and securing stable monetary policies. It would be a "bold, innovative economic plan", he told the appropriations committee of the Senate today.

Mr Paul Volcker, chairman of the Federal Reserve Board, appeared to support the new Administration's plans in testimony before the same committee today. He stressed that "I work harder to continue to restrain inflation and secure economic growth."

Mr Regan asserted that the Administration has no doubt at all that providing incentives to business and individuals to work harder will swiftly reduce inflation and secure economic growth.

To this end across-the-board business and individual tax cuts are planned. Capital gains taxes will be reduced and greater depreciation allowances for business are a certainty.

Office of Management, also stressed to the senators that the Administration intends to curb government regulation of business. As a first step the White House intends to eliminate oil price controls, a move that will swiftly see a rise of about 12 cents on a gallon of petrol from the present price of about \$1.40.

Oil price controls are already being phased-out and they were due to end by September. Decontrol is seen as raising prices to the consumer to world market levels and so strengthening conservation, while at the same time offering better income incentives to domestic oil producers.

Mr Regan said the Budget would be balanced within two years, by the 1983 fiscal year, and that there would be significant budget surplus in four years. The Treasury said today that the Budget deficit in December narrowed to \$7,300m from \$8,575m in November.

Mr Volcker gave warning that tax cuts not matched by spending cuts could prove to be highly inflationary.

Mr Reagan said such precise matching was not contemplated, but that the Administration viewed tax cuts and spending cuts as part of a combined economic strategy with both being essential to restore American economic health.

"I do not think we can sustain \$60,000m (£25,000m) and \$70,000m budget deficits year after year without ruining this country," the President said.

Mr Stockman told the committee that the new programme of tax cuts, spending cuts, stable monetary policies and regulatory reform, would be announced clearly to send unambiguous signals throughout the United States and world economy of a major change in the principles and the framework of financial and economic policy.

The officials asserted that a close relationship was being fostered between the Administration and the Central Bank and that fiscal policies would fully support the anti-inflationary policies of the Federal Reserve.

## Bank union says 8pc is 'derisory'

By Donald Macintyre  
Labour Reporter

The threat of possible industrial action by 16,500 staff in Trustee Savings Bank branches and offices emerged yesterday when management and union negotiators with an 8 per cent offer in response to a claim of more than 20 per cent.

Banking Insurance and Finance Union (BIFU) negotiators rejected the offer. Talks will be resumed on February 20 after a management board meeting the previous day to consider whether to improve on the 8 per cent.

Last night, however, Mr William Whitman, the union's assistant secretary with responsibility for TSB, where the union has a large majority in membership, said: "The offer is so derisory that although our normal recourse is to circumvent it by going to arbitration we would possibly have to consider industrial action."

The question however, of whether any proposal for industrial action might be put to members at TSB, which the union claims enjoyed an undoubted 9 per cent increase in pre-tax profits last year, would undoubtedly await the outcome of the resumed negotiations next month.

The talks come at a sensitive time however, because the banking unions are due to open talks on a closely similar claim with the Federation of London clearing banks on Thursday.

Mr Lef Mills, general secretary of BIFU, which represents 70,000 of the 200,000 on the staffs of the English clearing banks, said last night that it would be "ludicrous" if the union was to receive a similar offer from the employers on Thursday.

## Oilmen take a swing at the Royal and Ancient

Union officials fear privately, while acknowledging that they have no hard evidence, that there may have been informal contact between TSB, the English clearing banks and the Federation of Scottish Clearing Bank Employers, over this year's pay round.

Negotiations are due to open on February 17 with the Scottish banks, where it represents directly 14,000 of the 24,000 staff. The settlement date is February 21 at TSB and April 1 at the Scottish and English clearing banks.

Mr Mills said last night: "We hope very much that we do not go through the charade on Thursday of being made another single figure offer which is not of any use."

The claim at TSB also embraces a one-hour reduction in the working week to 35 hours, and a continuation of the company's Christmas bonus payment. The company said it was prepared to concede the latter point but not a reduction in hours.

It believed its offer was a reasonable one, given the general economic climate, the financial objectives of the bank and the current level of increases in the public and private sector.

But perhaps more importantly, the St Andrews area is not the section of the licensed ground in which Premier is most interested. Its exploration experts reckon that the coast along the Firth of Forth is the most likely to possess the underlying anticline structure which stands the best chance of containing oil or gas.

Another eight onshore exploration licences were awarded by the Secretary of State for Energy yesterday. Among them are parts of North Yorkshire and Humberside, including some beautiful countryside on the coast near Whitby.

Shell, Clyde Petroleum, Taylor Woodrow and Amoco are among the licence holders.

Interest in onshore exploration has increased greatly since British Gas discovered a second reservoir at Wytham Farm, Dorset, where it has confirmed a field the size of smaller accumulations in the North Sea.

Even relatively small finds, at oil prices of \$39 a barrel, prove commercially. The Royal and Ancient, however, and its golfers, can sleep easily.

**Mr Nassar may make Inveresk counterbid**

By Michael Prest

Mr Edward Nassar, the international businessman, who holds 14 per cent of Inveresk, the troubled papermaker, said yesterday that he was considering a counterbid to the £7.1m offer from Georgia-Pacific Corporation of Portland, Oregon, which makes and distributes forest products and has oil and natural gas interests.

Speaking from his home in Lausanne, Switzerland, Mr Nassar said that he was looking at three options: accepting the Georgia-Pacific offer, keeping a minority stake or increasing it, and bidding for the whole of Inveresk.

Georgia-Pacific's terms, revealed last week as shares in Georgia-Pacific, cash or a combination, equivalent to 35 an Inveresk share. Mr Nassar said: "I honestly think it is very cheap. If I complete that counterbid, I feel we should be given much more information."

In 1979 Inveresk made a pre-tax profit of £526,000. But in the first half of last year it lost £1.6m, and a precondition of the Georgia-Pacific offer is that 1980 losses are not more than £7m.

Mr Nassar said: "I don't think it is as bad as that. They have got a new plant in Scotland which surely can be put right. The company is backed by a lot of property." In the last accounts Inveresk's investment properties were valued at £8.3m.

Mr Nassar, who has interests in five countries, suggested that the property interests could be separated from papermaking. He said: "If the papermaking were better managed, both parts could be profitable."

But Mr Nassar said that he was unlikely to make a move until he had seen the full offer document, due to be published in a few weeks' time. Mr Tom Corrigan, chairman of Inveresk, said he had heard nothing from Mr Nassar.

Georgia-Pacific was in 1979 worth \$5,200m (£2,157m) on capitalization. It is around \$2,500m.

Mr Nassar is confident that he can raise the finance for a bid. But he emphasizes that discussions are still in the preliminary stage, and did not say where the money would come from.

## Call to ease HP controls on vehicles

By Roman Eisenstein

Mr John Little, chairman of the Finance Houses Association, last night called for a relaxation of credit controls on sales of cars. Since December 1973, buyers of private cars on hire purchase contracts have had to pay one third deposit and repay the debt within two years.

Speaking at the association's annual dinner, he said that "no clear public statement has ever been made on why private cars should be singled out for such extraordinary treatment."

Mr Little suggested that term controls on private cars could be amended to allow a cash deposit with a three-year repayment. This would help the motor industry and car components manufacturers.

Mr Little, who is also chairman of Lloyds and Scott's, called for special rates for finance houses and banks under the 1979 Banking Act. While the Bank of England had said that the differences between the two were merely based on the range of facilities offered and not on financial standing or financial strength, "there has been evidence that the draftsman of some recent legislation have read a different interpretation into the Act."

Little said high interest rates were having particularly bad effects on small companies. He welcomed recent cuts in interest rates but said that further reductions were essential before a "real lasting benefit" could be felt.

Pointing to official efforts to control the money supply, Mr Little said finance houses were in no way responsible for excessive growth.

## Dollar rises strongly in late trading

By Peter Weinwright

The dollar soared in late trading on the news that the United States government had ended oil price controls and announced tax and public spending cuts. Having been steady against the American currency for most of the day, the pound gave ground to close 118 points down at \$2.4075.

But sterling's effective exchange rate index, measured against a basket of major currencies, ended the day up 0.2 at 81.2. This reflects the pound's strength against European currencies. In addition, sterling's late losses against the dollar may not have been fully accounted for at the time-the index was calculated.

Both the pound and the dollar gained support yesterday from switching out of gold. The metal fell a further \$12 in London in reaction to Monday's sharp drop.

The pound is an attractive currency to hold, with high interest rates relative to European levels. North Sea oil and a large current account surplus on the balance of payments.

The main factors underpinning the American currency are high interest rates and expectations of rises in the near future.

The strength of these two currencies contrasts with the continuing weakness of the Deutsche mark.

## Food group goes to market for £45m

By Peter Weinwright

Associated Dairies, the £450m Leeds-based food retailing group which spent £37.5m on buying the Allied Retailers car parks and furniture business, is the first group this year to test the stock market for new money.

Advised by Baring Brothers, the merchant bankers, it is proposing to issue 30.27 million new ordinary shares at 154p a share to ordinary shareholders in the proportion of one to eight.

The issue is designed to raise £45m after expenses. Brokers to the issue are Scrimgeour, Kemp & Co.

Associated Dairies is noted for its string of Asda supermarkets, units of at least 25,000 square feet of selling space with car parks on the same level. The group now has 59 of these huge stores, mostly in the north of England.

The group opened London's first large supermarket at Park Royal last October.

However, fewer than half a dozen of the supermarkets are in the south of England where planning permission is hard to get. The one at Park Royal has a selling area of 48,000 square feet on one floor besides parking for 600 cars. But the store at the Aston Villa football ground is 78,000 square feet.

Financial Editor, page 19

## Rowland ally for Sir Hugh Fraser at crucial meeting

By Philip Robinson

The crucial meeting of the 15 directors of the House of Fraser this morning, at which Sir Hugh expects a boardroom coup to vote him out as chairman, will be attended by Mr Rowland "Tiny" Rowland, his new ally.

It is understood that this will be one of the few Fraser board meetings which Mr Rowland has attended in person since he was deposed as non-executive deputy chairman of Britain's largest stores group by Professor Roland Smith last August. Lord Duncan Sandys, the other Lomro nominee, will be represented by Mr Paul Spicer, a fellow Lomro director.

The new friendship between Sir Hugh and Mr Rowland—ex loggershead until last Thursday when they agreed that public panic costing shareholders an estimated £1m had been a misunderstanding—represents a commanding force in terms of shareholding.

Together they can influence 33.5 per cent of the total Fraser equity and it is estimated that personal loyalty from smaller shareholders to the Fraser family could give them a further 10 per cent.

Immediately after the reconciliation, Mr Spicer said that Lomro would now back Sir Hugh as chairman and wanted to work together in the best interests of the House of Fraser.

Sir Hugh has already said that if he loses today, it is likely that there will be another special shareholders' meeting to fight out the matter in an American-style proxy battle.

Twice in the past seven months, Sir Hugh has been victorious by a handsome majority in fending off Lomro's public attacks. It is reckoned in the City that the two are virtually unstoppable now that they have joined forces.

But if Sir Hugh and Mr Rowland are reconciled, there are dark rumblings from some of the pension funds and insurance companies whose holdings in Fraser account for about 40 per cent of the total equity, and whose combined stakes are worth £72m.

A meeting of the National Association of

## Chemical industry faces overtime ban

By David Warburton

A move to ban overtime throughout the chemical industry to counter job cuts and plant closures came yesterday from members of the General and Municipal Workers Union.

The decision now goes to the union's national executive who are almost certain to give it their backing.

A two-day conference of delegates representing 100,000 chemical workers wants the union to seek talks with other unions in the industry to persuade them to follow their lead.

This could affect 340 chemical companies in all divisions from plastics to soap powders. The largest employer is ICI, which is already seeking substantial cutbacks in staff.

Mr David Warburton, the union's national organiser for the industry, said members who took industrial action to resist enforced redundancies would get official backing.

He said many companies were using the recession as an excuse to cut deeper into the labour force.

It is really trying to organize it," Mr Jenkins was unavailable for comment.

At least one institution, British Rail, has made it clear to the Fraser board that it was "uncomfortable" at giving support to Sir Hugh.

It is understood that a number of pension funds gave qualified support in an attempt to fend off Lomro, but said they were not happy with the running of the company.

Most believe that there is no quick cure for Fraser and to blame one man by dismissing him is not the answer. Opinion is divided on whether Sir Hugh should go.

Few feel that S. G. Warburg, the group's merchant bankers whose future is also up for discussion today should be dismissed. One fund manager said: "Clearly changes are needed at Fraser, and Warburg's have been in long enough to know what is happening and have assessed what is best for the company. To change advisers now would merely delay the timing of the changes needed."

The insurance company shareholders say they are watching the situation closely. Meanwhile, today's meeting could create a problem for Mr Rowland, who is due to resume the chairmanship of the Fraser subsidiary at the end of the month.

Institutions' role, page 19

## PRICE CHANGES

Rises		Falls	
Amal power	7p to 73p	Abarco	£3 to £15 1/2
Elec Hlgs	2p to 62p	Audiotronics	5p to 33p
Electrocomp	35p to 663p	East Daga	5p to 84p
Eurotherm Int	15p to 246p	Hamerley	6p to 160p
Highland	10p to 105p	Lockwoods Fds	2p to 32p
Falls		Rises	
Kode Int	15p to 265p	Bank buys	2.12
Magnet & Stms	12p to 124p	Bank sells	2.12
Renwick Corp	8p to 85p	Austria Sch	24.75
Richmond Wall	4p to 28p	Belgium Fr	82.25
Royal Wores	15p to 220p	Canada \$	2.93
		Denmark Kr	15.78
		Finland Mkk	9.90
		France Fr	11.80
		Germany DM	5.13
		Greece Dr	123.00
		Hongkong \$	12.95
		Ireland Pt	1.35
		Italy Lit	2450.00
		Japan Yen	513.00
		Netherlands Gld	5.54
		Norway Kr	13.33
		Portugal Esc	135.00
		South Africa Rd	2.13
		Spain Pta	200.00
		Sweden Kr	11.28
		Switzerland Fr	4.65
		USA \$	2.47
		Yugoslavia Dnr	86.00

Bank notes only, as supplied yesterday by Reuters Bank International Ltd. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques and other foreign currency business.

## Rowland ally for Sir Hugh Fraser at crucial meeting

By Philip Robinson

The crucial meeting of the 15 directors of the House of Fraser this morning, at which Sir Hugh expects a boardroom coup to vote him out as chairman, will be attended by Mr Rowland "Tiny" Rowland, his new ally.

It is understood that this will be one of the few Fraser board meetings which Mr Rowland has attended in person since he was deposed as non-executive deputy chairman of Britain's largest stores group by Professor Roland Smith last August. Lord Duncan Sandys, the other Lomro nominee, will be represented by Mr Paul Spicer, a fellow Lomro director.

The new friendship between Sir Hugh and Mr Rowland—ex loggershead until last Thursday when they agreed that public panic costing shareholders an estimated £1m had been a misunderstanding—represents a commanding force in terms of shareholding.

Together they can influence 33.5 per cent of the total Fraser equity and it is estimated that personal loyalty from smaller shareholders to the Fraser family could give them a further 10 per cent.

Immediately after the reconciliation







BY THE FINANCIAL EDITOR

# Inchcape makes hay in the Far East

Inchcape matched market hopes with interim profits up by more than a quarter on £39.1m. But what took the gilt off the gingerbread—and left the shares 12p lower at 428p—was the absence of an expected dividend increase and dark hints about the effects of recession in the second-half, bearing in mind that with December year-ends for its overseas subsidiaries, Inchcape is talking with the benefit of hindsight the market was clearly not prepared to ignore the point.

Meanwhile Inchcape's tax charge up from £7.7m to a more normal £17.2m speaks volumes about the geographical pattern of economic conditions. Profits from the low-tax United Kingdom and Middle East areas have been evaporating to be replaced by booming returns from the harsher tax regimes of South East Asia and the Far East.

Overall profits from the Pacific basin have increased their share of the total from just over half last time to close on three-quarters particularly strongly. In stark contrast Inchcape's Mann Egerton motor subsidiary in the United Kingdom has plunged from a pretax profit of £1.4m to a loss of £664,000 in the face of weak demand and big losses in Mann Egerton Furniture.

It is this sort of experience presumably which has encouraged caution on the dividend front although it must be a fair bet that Inchcape will make up the ground with a 10 per cent increase for the year at the final stage.

Despite the warnings profits still seem likely to show a sound gain to around £75m from last time's £65.6m.

This prospect implying a yield of 6.7 per cent and a fully-taxed p/e ratio of over 11 will do little for the share rating in the short-term. But it may not be too many months before institutional buying on further recovery hopes enlivens the picture.

## Reed International Remaining on a low base

Reed International's 1980/81 period will be badly distorted by the experience of the first quarter in which industrial troubles, mainly in the publishing business, cost profits around £12m.

In the second quarter it returned to a base, albeit one that was well down on last year, and that trend continued into the third quarter with profits at £15m still way adrift of the £30m earned in the comparable period a year ago.

The pattern remains fairly constant—in the United Kingdom at the moment the recession is fierce in the newspaper business where Reed has undertaken a heavy closure programme.

Publications, though, had a good quarter, although advertising revenues are beginning to slip, and paint and building products and packaging are all proving resilient even though volumes are down.

Leaving aside the deflationary effect of converting overseas profits into sterling, the Quebec papermill continues reasonably well; the recession, though, is beginning to hurt in Europe while the United States wellcoverings business has more problems.

The question for the shares of course is whether Reed will hold the dividend (it did at the interim) even though it may well be uncovered on a current cost basis.

The chances are on the back of a strong balance sheet that it will unless the final situation deteriorates markedly in the final quarter—two reasons, then, for thinking the shares have recovery potential at 183p yielding 10.1 per cent and selling at perhaps 51 times likely earnings.

## MFI Cutting back

Investor confidence in MFI as a glamour stock vanished yesterday when it reported interim profits of only £4.9m, £3.1m down on last year and considerably below expectations.

The market had seemed prepared to give MFI a second chance following the £30m Status Discount merger and the revised profits forecast last year, but the 11p fall to 52p in the share price yesterday ended all that.

# When should the institutions intervene?

To many outsiders Sir Hugh Fraser and Lombro's chief executive Mr Roland "Tiny" Rowland seem to have been carrying on a private feud in the incongruous public battle-ground of the House of Fraser. Important issues about the running of the department stores group—whose record in the last few years has hardly impressed the City—appear to have become mixed up in bitter personal differences which may work to the detriment of the long-term health of Fraser and the interests of other shareholders.

Last week's dramatic eleventh hour reconciliation in Scotland between Sir Hugh and Mr Rowland, now back on the same side fighting off a possible coup from other directors to get rid of Sir Hugh as chairman, has only served to heighten the suspicion that House of Fraser's future lies in the hands of two very powerful men whose motives for their actions are far from clear.

Certainly, that seems to be the conclusion of Fraser's financial advisers, merchant bankers Warburg and stockbrokers Cazenove, who seem to be as bemused as anyone about what exactly is going on at Fraser.

Previous boardroom wrangles like this have usually stung the investing institutions into action. But during all the brouhaha of the past year or more the institutions, who collectively speak for more than 35 per cent of the shares, have remained curiously silent. They have presumably preferred to use the opportunity of the extraordinary general meetings to show that while they are no great fans of House of Fraser management they have not been convinced by Mr Rowland's arguments.

There is another interpretation. This is that they have been using Warburg and Cazenove as sounding boards about what is actually going on, but have not wanted to upset the applicant because of widespread expectations that Lombro would eventually use its near 30 per cent holding as the springboard for a full bid, which would give them handsome capital gains.

Only in the last few days have the institutions, through their investment protection committees started to involve themselves more directly, yet again leaving them open to the criticism that they come on to the scene far too late in the day to be really effective.

The precise role of the institutions in industrial management is probably still as ill-defined as ever. In part, that is their own fault, since most of the institutions' activities are shrouded in secrecy. In many cases that is rightly so, since to come out

Ronald Pullen

# When should the institutions intervene?

But it was not until the early 1970s that there were moves to put the links between the users and providers of capital on a more formal footing. The background to this was a rapid growth in the financial power of the institutions, the disbanding of the old Industrial Reorganisation Corporation (which had kept a watching brief on vulnerable sectors of the economy) and a series of spectacular crashes like those of Rolls-Royce and Upper Clyde Shipbuilders, which raised important questions about company management.

The catalyst was the Bank of England, which despite heated opposition from some of the institutions set up the Institutional Shareholders Committee. Institutions, however, continued to believe that their primary skills lay in investing and that they had little expertise in industrial management, so that particular initiative withered away. They argued that their main responsibility was to their investors, for whom as trustees they could not take the sort of risks inherent in the closer relationship with industry envisaged at the time.

Since then much of the work of the individual protection committees has been routine, dealing with changes in matters directly affecting them as shareholders, such as alterations to articles of association or increases in borrowing limits.

Occasionally, however, the institutions have flexed their muscles publicly on matters of wider import. A few years ago the institutions left Coss Patons in no doubt that if it passed a dividend again with no good reason there would be hell to pay; they exploited the boardroom row at Rank between Sir John Davis and Mr Graham Dowson to get rid of the company's non-voting structure.

More recently, Barclays Bank was rapped over the knuckles for its investment trust deal which they argued discriminated against existing shareholders; and during the Allied Lyons takeover they engineered a change in The Stock Exchange's rules so that shareholders would be consulted on major deals.

In pursuing Newman Industries through the courts over some of its controversial deals, the Prudential won an important victory in standing up for the rights of small and large shareholders. But there have been too many cases where the institutions have stood aside, thereby giving ammunition to the City's critics who say that they should be more robust. House of Fraser is likely to be yet another occasion when firmer action by the institutions could, and should, have altered the course of events.

## Joan Best discusses the growing row over Canada's energy policy

# Alberta prepares to turn the taps off

In a little over a month Alberta will start to turn off the oil taps to the rest of Canada—an act which will intensify the already bitter row between the federal government and this mineral-rich province over energy policy and, even more important, the balance of political power.

Despite the baiting which it has taken from opposition members of parliament, provincial politicians in the Canadian West and the oil industry, the federal government's national energy programme—the immediate cause of all the fuss—looks like staying in. It is "We do not intend to back off from these policies", Mr Mark Lalonde, the energy minister, told an opposition questioner, in the Commons recently. "We are determined to achieve these goals and we will."

The goals are: "Canadianization" of the oil and natural gas industry; substitution of alternate forms of energy, including gas, for oil; and energy self-sufficiency by 1990.

It was announced when it was unveiled last October—simultaneously with the federal budget—that the policy would have a rocky ride and that it could be fulfilled, if at all, only at the cost of added strains on national unity.

It immediately added fresh impetus to the controversy surrounding Canadian constitutional reform. Control over resources is one of the issues at stake in this dispute, which involves the federal government's unilateral move—opposed by eight of the 10 provinces—to "patriate" the British North America Act from Westminster.

Alberta is prominent among the provinces opposing the constitutional resolution, which is now before a parliamentary committee.

The part of the federal energy package which most enraged Alberta was a provision for new production taxes on gas and on the net revenues of both oil and gas companies, calculated to enrich the federal treasury by 11,700m Canadian dollars (about £4,200m) by the end of the 1983-84 financial year.

Mr Peter Lougheed, the Alberta premier, had given warning earlier that an export tax on gas would be tantamount to a declaration of war against his province by the federal government. In the



A huge excavating machine at work in the Athabasca oil sand field at Fort McMurray, Alberta: the province claims that proposed oil taxes would still leave the price of domestically produced oil too far behind the prevailing world price.

agent, the government imposed a levy not only on gas sold in the United States but on that sold in Canada, too.

It also announced a plan to increase domestic ownership of the country's oil and gas industry to at least 50 per cent by the end of the decade (the industry is now about 80 per cent American-owned, controlled) and it provided for a series of hefty increases—a total of C\$17.30 over four years—in the price of domestically-produced oil, nearly all of which comes from Alberta.

Alberta was far from satisfied with this, since it will leave the price of a barrel of oil at only C\$34 in 1983, well below even the present world price of close to US\$40 a barrel.

Federal policy for some years has been to keep oil prices artificially low, to help the competitive position of the country's industry.

Mr Lougheed's response to the national energy programme was an accusation that the federal government had "walked into our home and occupied the living room" and the decision to cut oil production.

Output is to be cut by 180,000 barrels a day, or about a fifth, which is a significant loss for March 1. Alberta has said that it will not proceed with the reduction if there is evidence that it would cause serious oil shortages, but at present it shows every intention of going ahead.

Mr Lougheed has also promised to cancel the cuts if the federal government agrees to negotiate a new and fairer arrangement on petroleum pricing.

Both sides to the dispute have indicated that they are prepared to reopen negotiations and both have good reason to try to reach a settlement. Apart from the absurdity of trying to carry out a national energy policy while at loggerheads with the key producing province, the federal regime must view with alarm the immediate prospect of an oil reduction by Alberta.

If it decided to make up the full 180,000-barrel daily deficit by buying on the world spot market, the federal government could end up spending at least C\$2,500m a year.

As for Alberta, despite its fabulously wealthy and fast-growing oil industry, it is largely self-sufficient in oil and gas. It can ill-afford the loss in income and jobs that would result from cutbacks on the scale proposed.

Parts of the Alberta economy are already being hit because billions of dollars' worth of investment in oil sands oil in the province has been held up. A number of projects have been placed in abeyance, in one case by industry, in other cases by the provincial government itself, as a result of the uncertainty generated by the federal-provincial squabble.

Both sides to the dispute are also aware that there would be a political price to pay if Alberta started turning off the oil tap and it could fall on either or both the Liberal government in Ottawa or the Conservative government in Edmonton.

So politicians are tip-toeing through the gathering storm, careful not to close any doors, but also not to give the impression that they are overdoing with eagerness for negotiations.

Answering a question in the Commons a few days ago Mr Allan MacEachen, the finance minister, said that the federal government was prepared to negotiate on the understanding that those with whom we negotiate are also prepared to make accommodations and changes.

Asked point blank whether it was willing to discuss the new taxes on oil and gas, he replied non-committally: "We are prepared to discuss with the producing provinces all items which might lead to a conclusion that would be fair to all parties."

Meanwhile, the national energy programme is taking its toll in other directions. Oil drilling rigs are said to be moving back to the United States from western Canada because of reduced exploration incentives.

Earlier this month, Mobil Oil Canada cut its 1981 capital investment programme from C\$359m to C\$195m, with a warning that the energy programme would reduce the province's discovery of new oil reserves by more than 60 per cent. The investment value of several planned projects was now doubtful, the company said.

Mobil operates a consortium which wants to develop the Hibernia discovery off the Newfoundland coast.

In Toronto the chairman of the Toronto-Dominion Bank, Mr Richard Thomson, went further. He told the bank's annual meeting in Toronto that the energy programme could produce a "national disaster". It could leave Canada, which already imports large quantities of oil for its eastern seaboard, more dependent on offshore petroleum and so draw the country towards energy self-sufficiency.

It is also taken for granted in some quarters that the Canadianization aspect of the energy programme will eventually cause repercussions in the international investment community and in board rooms of the multinational oil companies.

Among other things, the plan calls for Petro-Canada, a crown-owned company, to take over the Canadian operations of one or more of the multinationals—more of the multinationalisation, and presumably through expropriation if necessary.

Mr Lalonde says that he hopes that in 1981 Petro-Canada will buy out "at least one, two or three foreign companies with a view to enhancing Canadian ownership."

Mr MacEachen for his part is little impressed by what he calls the "oil industry does" recited by opposition MPs. "I think it is absolutely clear that the cash flow available to the industry is ample and growing," he told the Commons.

No other sector in the Canadian economy has the opportunity for growth and development that this industry has."

## Business Diary: Go West, young woman • Card vote

The engineering industry, never a great employer of women at management level, has come up with a useful way of marking the fifth anniversary of the passage of the Sex Discrimination Act and the implementation of the Equal Pay Act.

Harry Wood, head of the management development centre of the West Midlands Engineering Employers' Association, plans to hold courses this year aimed at preparing women for jobs in management.

Furthermore, the WMEA is acting as host to Stephanie Gaunt and Mandy Collett, two researchers with a grant from the Equal Opportunities Commission. With it they will be coming up with ideas for company training programmes that discriminate for, instead of against, women.

A "Women in Management" course was held last year, after Wood noted that the proportion of women in engineering management was "at around 2 per cent" and still falling.

This was a six-week course attended by 12 women, of whom all but two were employed. Employers inside and outside engineering were reluctant to free women for a course that long.

The two women researchers were recruited from last year's intake, Stephanie Gaunt being one of the two who had a job. The other woman who had a job has since been promoted and all the others have since found work.

This year's courses will be restricted so that more employed women can enrol.

If I had had some of our office writing paper on me yesterday I would have sought Peter Royle's opinion of it; but I had to make do with my card.

Royle, a director of his family's printing company, W. R. Royle, is chairman of the council which is asking 50,000 users of business stationery to enter for the 1981 British Letterhead Awards.

On being pressed to comment, Royle described my card the standard item which Timespeople prefer to contacts, as "terrible".

I think Royle may have a point, although in fairness I must point out that our design people were not too taken with Royle's own card.

Royle's remarks were not the first printing surprise of the day. As I left to see him I opened a letter which was a fraternal greeting sent to all Times Newspapers employees, by Rupert Murdoch. This was under a "Times Newspapers letter-heading, although at this time Murdoch's bid was still conditional.

But then Rupert Murdoch himself may have been surprised to see himself described as Robert Murdoch in an edition of yesterday's paper.

There is some indignation among consumers about a singularly complacent (and hitherto unnoticed) announcement by the Department of Trade. It purports to give an account of a recent meeting of the Economic Community Group (CECG) had with Sally Oppenheim, the Minister for Consumer Affairs.

The CECG represents 22 United Kingdom consumer organizations and it wanted the meeting to put across its unanimous view that it would be disastrous if the Government persisted with its intention to put into the EEC's draft directive on product liability a state of the art defence.

This would enable the makers of products which subsequently prove dangerous to plead "I didn't know the gun was loaded."

The Department of Trade's announcement says: "It was recognized that there was a considerable divergence of views even within the consumer movement on many aspects of the directive" and concludes that "one of the most important improvements" Mrs Oppenheim would be seeking to the directive would be "the introduction of the state of the art defence."

The CECG says that its member groups have seldom been so united as they are in opposition to the Government's position on the "state of the

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EDITOR, BUSINESS DIARY

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Profit before tax and extraordinary items	4,895	4,634	5.8
Earnings per share	26.06p	24.58p	6.0
Dividends per share	7.89p	7.50p	5.2

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## FINANCIAL NEWS

## Stock markets

## Equities still strong on hopes of MLR cut

Hopes of a cut in MLR in the Budget on March 10 kept hopes alive in the market yesterday as equities maintained their strong start to the account.

Volume was slightly up on Monday's business, but trade remained thin with prices showing exaggerated gains. Once again investors were concentrating their efforts on the more favourable sectors of strong performance by electricals, insurance and oil shares. Elsewhere, dealers were kept on the hop by the numerous bid situations and company news.

So, sentiment continued to improve and when the unemployment figures were released, which showed the eighth consecutive increase to 2.4m, the market was able to disregard it. Only the last gloomy report from the CBI caused any ripples, but after lunch the market outquipped its advance helped by a strong opening on Wall Street.

The FT Index rose by 5.7 by midday, before retreating to only 3.8 higher at 3 pm. It eventually closed 5.5 up at 467.4.

Gold shares were also in better form following the rally in the bullion price, up £2 at \$517.50.

Gilt came back into favour, helped by speculation that the new "tap", where applications close today, will be warmly received and a bullish circular from brokers Panmure Gordon.

In long, gains of up to 4½ were reported, while in shorts, prices closed unchanged or earlier rises of 1/16.

Leading industrial saw little inquiry but share prices continued to be marked higher in line with the advance in the rest of the market. Among those to end the day 2p or 3p higher were ICI at 120p, Bechtel at 172p, Glaxo at 253p, Unilever at 446p and GKN at 143p.

In papers, full-year figures from Reed International were

in line with most expectations and the shares ended the day 1p lighter at 183p, while Rowat remained unchanged at 183p. Shares of Bristol Evening Post picked up 5p to 173p, still overshadowed by fears that the 190p-a-share bid from Associated Newspapers might be referred to the Monopolies Commission. Shares of

Shareholders of UDT waiting patiently for further news of the 60p-a-share bid from Lloyd's Bank may not have much longer to wait. The directors were said to have had a meeting with the institutions yesterday which may signal the rejection of L & S followed by a counter-bid from elsewhere. The shares rose 1p to 53p.

Associated hardened 3p to 238p. Meanwhile, after the New International offer for The Times and Sunday Times would not be referred to the Monopolies Commission resulted in a 2p rise at 93p, while International Thomson ended 7p higher at 284p.

Electricals enjoyed another worthwhile session but were reported to be looking a little tired by the close, in spite of the continuing thin conditions. GKN rose 5p to 600p, Thorn EMI 3p to 297p and Plessey 3p

to 276p, but Rascal reporting tomorrow, looked decidedly nervous, losing 7p to 308p. Speculative attention lifted Muirhead 7p to 84p as buyers still banked on a bid from Tyco Laboratories. Interest was also expressed in Electrocomp, up 35p at 665p, and Koda International 15p better at 268p. Full-year figures from Eurotherm International were judged to be much better than expected as the shares advanced 15p to 246p and Unitech, reporting next week, expanded 10p to 252p.

In foods, the expected £45m rights issue from Associated Bakers caused only mild interest as the shares slipped 2p to 183p, but Glass Glover, weighing in with improved full-year figures, closed 4p dearer at 54p. In contrast, Sompertex, which reported recently, dipped 30p to 730p on profit-taking.

The reduction in profits at the half-way stage left Benjamin Priest 7p lighter at 45p, while disappointing figures and a line of 1m shares on offer at 51p left MFI Furniture tumbling 11p to 32p. Disappointing figures also left Incheape 12p lower at 428p, but dealers took heart in the interim statement from Stewart Plastics, 3p higher at 79p. A £900m cash-injection by

the Government saw shares of EL rise 3p to 21p in an exceptionally thin market which in turn sparked off a 6p rally in Lucas at 171p, in the wake of recent warnings about lay-offs.

Shares of Renwick returned from suspension up 8p at 86p following the counter-bid from Kangra International and hopes of improved terms from Bahco lifted Record Ridgway 6p to 43p. W. A. Tyack, holding a sizable stake in Record, rose 4p to 36p.

Speculative buying had Pritchard Services 6p ahead at 130p, along with Richards & Wellington, 4p to 28p. R. P. Martin added 2p to 150p despite the breakdown in talks with Bierbaum. Acquisition news had Dundonian 7p heavier at 64p and F. Pratt, awaiting figures, climbed 7p to 50p. But Mercantile House encountered good buying in a thin market, on the back of recent figures, rising 30p to 600p.

Builders made further good gains, with rises in Redland 7p to 167p, Blue Circle 6p to 350p and Barratt Developments 8p to 155p. Horrie, no further increase in duty in the forthcoming Budget brought a welcome spurt to drink shares. Allied added 2p to 67p as did Bass 8p to 207p, Grand Metropolitan 8p to 162p, Arthur Bell 6p to

170p and Distillers 3p to 181p. News of President Reagan's proposals to de-control the price of oil saw renewed interest in oils. BP expanded

Note the recent weakness in shares of Dreamland Electrical where the price has dropped from 25p to as low as 17p. Brokers are worried that full-year profits, due soon, may be worse than expected, after the mid winter. Dreamland admits to a sharp drop in demand, which has put its factory on a three-day week and is likely to hit profits. The shares rose 1p to 20p yesterday.

Sp to 410p, Ultramar 5p to 488p and Lasso 13p to 687p, but switching into Royal Dutch saw Shell 6p off at 428p. Among second-liners, KCA International rose 3p to 171p on news of its 51 per cent acquisition of Baron Oil Clyde Petroleum was also wanted, up 65p at 760p despite details of a gas find off the Isle of Wight.

The steadier gold price brought in buyers from the Continent and New York for mines with Anglo Am Gold up £1 at 336p, St Helens £1 to 315p and Vaal Reefs £1 to 313p. Equity turnover on January 26 was £98.132m (15,908 bargains). The most active stocks, according to the Exchange Telegraph, were BSE, BAI, GEC, Shell, De Beers, RSC, B&S, P&O, Hong Kong and Shanghai, Barmah, Charterhouse, Premier Oil and Tricor.

Traded options had a better day with 1,186 contracts. Courtauld April 50s and Grand Metropolitan April and July 160s were active, while Loocho May 100s and 110s were busiest. Traditional options saw calls strangled in gold shares. Western Deep, Daga, Elsborg, and Free Gold at a uniformly high 15 per cent of their share prices. Puts were done in ICI at 14p.

## Latest results

Company	Sales	Profits	Earnings	Div	Pay	Year's
£m	£m	£m	per share	pence	date	total
Assoc. Dairies (I)	598(448)	22.7(22.5)	4.5(4.49)	17.1(15.3)	—	3.7p(3.1p)
Baron Oil	4.28(3.4)	0.1(0.08)	—	—	—	—
Eurotherm (P)	24.8(21.6)	2.4(2.2)	1.8(1.82)	3(3)	—	4.5(4p)
Glaxo (G)	37.6(30.4)	0.65(0.53)	5.2(4.38)	1.6(1.4)	1/4	2.1(1.85)
Incheape (I)	39.1(31.1)	1.7(1.3)	7.1(7.1)	1.1(1.1)	2/4	—
MFI (M)	90.5(81.1)	4.9(3.8)	1.0(0.8)	—	—	—
Ben Priest (I)	21.9(22)	0.04(1.2)	0.24(0.46)	1.6(1.6)	2/3	—
Stewart Plastics (I)	4.17(4.25)	1.26(1.05)	—	1.2(1.02)	2/3	—
Town & City (I)	18.24(17.59)	7.75(7.57)	—	—	—	—
Unilever (U)	18.24(17.59)	0.06(0.055)	1.01(1.05)	0.8(0.7)	25/3	10(10.01)
Zetters (I)	5.88(5.1)	0.75(0.63)	1.01(0.85)	0.8(0.7)	11/4	—

Dividends in this table are shown net of tax on pence per share. Elsewhere in Business News dividends are shown on a gross basis. To establish gross multiply the net dividend by 1.428. Profits are shown pretax and earnings are net. \*—adjusted for scrip issue; +—forecast total; =—gross income; \$—loss; %—gross income from property.

## Eurotherm down 17pc for year

After a 13 per cent drop in last year's taxable tax profits, Eurotherm International, the control gear group based at Worthing, went on to suffer a 17 per cent fall to £2.4m over the full year to October 31. Sales, by contrast, rose 14.3 per cent to £24.8m, almost as fast as in the first six months. The ordinary dividend stays at 4.5p net or 6.44p gross with a final payment of 3p a share.

The group suffered from rapidly rising costs, high interest rates and the strength of sterling. The group sells products like industrial temperature control equipment which goes to industries suffering



Dr. Jack Leonard, incoming chairman of Eurotherm.

most from the world recession. Despite this, ten of the 13 trading companies in the group, had a good year over eight more made money.

The fall in profits reflected technical problems not overcome until late in the year, while the strong pound forced the United States company in widening its margins by manufacturing more over there. Several new lines are now ready for sale; the expenditure on them fell into 1979.

This past year borrowings fell £600,000 to £3.3m. Total business is at present holding up well, but the group cannot see very far ahead. There is, however, no cause for pessimism, the board reports. At the pending annual meeting, Mr. Jim Hartnett steps down as chairman in favour of Dr. Jack Leonard.

## UNEMPLOYMENT

Monthly figures for unemployment in the UK, published by the Department of Employment yesterday.	Adults (thousands)	% of all employees	% of all unemployed
1980			
Jan.	1,327	8.9	1.470
Feb.	1,322	8.8	1.468
March	1,413	9.0	1.477
April	1,458	9.0	1,522
May	1,484	9.1	1,509
June	1,536	9.4	1,530
July	1,600	9.6	1,588
Aug.	1,575	9.0	2,001
Sept.	1,784	7.4	2,028
Oct.	1,997	8.6	2,061
Nov.	2,028	8.8	2,164
Dec.	2,123	8.8	2,283
1979			
Jan.	2,238	9.3	2,419

## REGIONAL UNEMPLOYMENT

Seasonally adjusted (excluding school leavers)	Number	Change in number	% of all employees	% of all unemployed
South East	41.3	-2.8	7.5	8.4
East Anglia	54.1	-2.8	7.5	8.4
West Midlands	126.6	-4.3	8.0	8.4
W. Midlands	123.3	-4.9	8.0	8.4
E. Midlands	129.8	-4.0	8.4	8.4
Yorkshire & Humberside	200.7	-10.9	8.9	8.4
N. West	320.1	-13.9	8.9	8.4
North	171.9	-7.2	12.4	8.4
Wales	133.3	-4.9	12.3	8.4
Scotland	222.3	-7.0	12.4	8.4
Britain	2,145.0	-99.7	9.1	8.4
Ireland	60.9	-2.3	15.8	8.4
United Kingdom	2,205.9	-102.6	9.3	8.4

## Town &amp; City interim loss higher

Town and City Properties' pretax loss was slightly higher, at £7.5m, in the half-year to September 28, 1980, compared with a loss of £7.57m last time. Net income from property rose from £3.16m to £4.27m and income from other sources from £3.36m to £3.55m, making a total of £7.82m, against £6.52m. However, interest payable grew from £14.1m to £15.57m.

Since last July, a further £10m of property has been sold with a book value of £14m. This brings the total of sales since March last year to £21m, with a book value of £15m. As last year, there is no interim dividend.

## Dundonian to buy Planned Savings

Surrey-based Dundonian Ltd, which is in property development, natural resources and public services, is to buy Planned Savings (Holdings). This company provides management services, including life

assurance, administrative pensions and investment management, to companies, trusts, pension funds, friendly societies and private clients. The price is £250,000 cash and £12,500 ordinary shares in Dundonian, to be issued at 80p each.

Planned Savings' pretax profits for 1980 were about £105,000. The takeover will considerably enhance Dundonian's finance and insurance interests and will create a stronger financial services division, with funds under management of more than £25m in balance with other group activities.

## Record profit again from Glass, Glover

Record results are once again reported by the Glass, Glover Group, the food distributor and importer of fresh fruit and vegetables. In the 12 months to September 30, 1980, pretax profits rose by 23.5 per cent to a record £659,000, rump turn-

over expanded from £304,3m to £376,3m. Turnover and profits have risen to fresh records each year since 1976 and have doubled in that period. The net gross dividend is being raised from 2.64p to 3p.

## Zetters up a fifth at half-time

Zetters, the pools and bingo group, reports a 19.8 per cent rise in pretax profits to £37,000 for the half-year to September 30. This was achieved on turnover 15.4 per cent higher at £5.88m, after deducting payments to pools winners and betting tax totaling £6.12m, against £5.39m last year. The interim payment is being lifted from 1.07p gross to 1.21p.

Zetters' board, headed by Mr. Paul Zetter, reports that almost the whole of the profits increase is attributed to the pools division.

## Rights issue for SPO Minerals

SPO Minerals, the mining company, launched last year, a one-for-four rights issue and use the proceeds to buy Doe Lea Colliery in Derbyshire. The new shares are to be offered at 105p each.

At the same time, SPO announced that it has sold for £187,500 its 5 per cent stake in Carnon Consolidated Tin Mines, which owns the Wheal Jane mine in Cornwall. The stake was sold to Rio Tinto Zinc, which now controls all of the equity.

SPO will be paying £373,000 for Doe Lea, which is one of the larger private coal producers in Britain licensed by the National Coal Board.

## Briefly

Premier Consolidated Offsheds: Conroy Petroleum and Natural Resources and Premier have agreed to form a consortium which will apply for exclusive rights to explore for offshore fish waters. Both Premier and Conroy not only will seek blocks under the proposed second round of licensing, but also may seek allocations of blocks under the "open-door" approach to the Department of

Arthur Lee & Sons: Mr. P. W. Lee, chairman, reports in his annual statement that the trading situation remains depressed, but does seem possible, he says, that the low point in order intake was in October and there has been some slight improvement since then. Nevertheless, the current half-year is likely to be "very unsatisfactory".

Reo Stacks Organization: Mr. Reo Stacks, chairman, reports that trading in the new month of 1980-81 has been very difficult, although certain areas of business seem to be continuing. The current half-year is likely to be "very unsatisfactory".

Local Authority Bonds: Interest rate on this week's issues of Local Authority yielding bonds is 13½ per cent, issue price is £100. (Last week 13½ per cent at 100p).

Hambro Trust (the company's principal asset comprises shares in Hambro's Limited). The increase in dividends receivable during the half-year to December 31, 1980, mainly from Hambro's Limited, has resulted in a 10 per cent increase in the amount available for ordinary shareholders to £207,000, compared with last year's £157,000. The directors have therefore decided to increase the rate of interim dividends to 1.35p per share (on the £25p paid) and 25p (fully paid) ordinary shares, compared with 1p per share (net) last year.

General first year's backing: An agreement in principle has been reached for Charterhouse Development Capital to purchase a minority stake in B&S & McDonald Construction for £175,000. This £175,000-based civil engineering contractor is currently working on a £1.5m contract for the construction of a new power station, including design and construction of the power station, power laying and road work in Southern Scotland, intended using part of this sum to develop its activities in Central Scotland.

## Marine underwriters see another bleak year ahead

By Richard Allen  
Insurance Correspondent

Shocked by three years of heavy losses, marine underwriters in the London insurance market still see little hope of recovery in the near future. Speaking at the annual meeting of the Institute of London Underwriters yesterday, Mr. Geoffrey Merriman, the chairman, claimed that some underwriters are now making losses even after taking into account the premium income earned on investments. "It is a bleak outlook for 1981", he said.

The ILU, which represents the company side of the marine insurance market in London, recently reported a significant decline in overall merchant

## Kangra International wins control of Renwick Group

By Peter Wilson-Smith  
Kangra International Holdings has won control of Renwick Group and is making a general 85p-a-share offer, valuing the fuel distribution to travel agents group at £7.5m—nearly a third more than the agreed bid from AAF which lapsed earlier this month. Renwick shares closed 8p up at 86p.

Mr. G. J. Beck, a South African businessman, has emerged as the principal behind Kangra, an off-the-shelf "Hongkong" company. Mr. Beck has private interests in South Africa, which include seven coal mines, property, stores and horse-breeding.

Kangra built up a 27.5 per cent stake in the Renwick voting shares just before Christmas and successive market purchases carried out by stockbrokers A. J. Bekhor. On Mon-

day, it gained control of Renwick by buying another 2.23m shares at 35p from Uto Bank of Zurich, giving it 50.9 per cent of the voting capital. Uto Bank also acquired its shares, for itself and six unrelated clients, through Bekhor.

Presented with a fait accompli, Renwick's directors, who last October agreed a 65p-a-share bid from AAF, the industrial holding company, have recommended the Kangra offer, and accepted in respect of their own shares although Renwick directors recently sold about half their shares in the market at around 73p.

Mr. Kenneth Holmes, Renwick chief executive, said the board had no difficulty in recommending the offer which was a good one for shareholders. He said Mr. Beck intended "to support and encourage the

development of the business. He's a man who is capable of giving us considerable support internationally."

Mr. Holmes said he believed that Uto Bank had bought shares on hopes that Mr. John Renwick's Bebbitt Group, which once had nearly 10 per cent of Renwick, would outbid AAF. In the event, Mr. Bentley is thought to have sold his shares on to Kangra.

AAF, whose bid was foiled, still retains over 10 per cent of the Renwick voting capital as well as important business links. With Renwick through the newly-named Western Fuel, Mr. William Fybus, chairman, said no decision had been taken on the Kangra offer nor had there been any contact with Mr. Beck. Kangra is making offers for Renwick preference shares on a straight conversion basis.

## Hanson Trust extends £13m bid for CMT

By Margaret Pagan  
Hanson Trust yesterday extended its £13m bid for Central Manufacturing & Trading following informal indications from the panel that the takeover Panel that rival bidder Caparo Investments should say its terms on the table. However, neither Caparo nor its advisers, nor Robert Fleming, merchant bankers to CMT, was personally informed by the panel, but received the news via a statement from Hanson Trust. A spokesman said they were "surprised".

The statement from Hanson said that the panel had requested Caparo to inform CMT shareholders by February 3 whether or not it intended to make an offer for the outstanding shares in CMT. "In these circumstances Hanson feels it is only right to extend its offer until 3 pm on Friday, February 13", it stated.

However, Mr. Peter Fraser, said last night that there had been some misunderstanding by Hanson and its bankers, N. M. Rothschild. He said they had "only informally been told that we would not be able to let this matter drift on forever". That day, he said, the £13m bid, had been drawn from the air and not been a precise instruction. "Inevitably, there must come a time when something must be said and

they assumed we had made a precise instruction. Caparo know that we cannot let this go on forever."

Hanson received only 240,000 acceptances for its 49p cash per share offer for CMT's shares by its second closing date on Monday. Hanson held 13.3 per cent of CMT, when it made its first offer last November. This was shortly followed by a formal rejection document sent to shareholders by the CMT board, which described the bid as grossly undervaluing the company. Mr. Roger Lewis, acting chairman, considered "an opportunistic attempt to acquire CMT at a low point in the economic cycle". The board has consistently upheld this view and Hanson has responded with an attack on the group's assumptions of a return to profitability.

On December 3 CMT announced that an approach had been received from Caparo which might lead to an offer. Since then Caparo, the privately controlled investment group whose chairman is Mr. Sverre Paul, has steadily been increasing its stake to 21.5 per cent.

Mr. Paul, who also described the Hanson offer as "mean", has indicated that terms of an agreed bid could be drawn up once it receives the additional trading figures.

## Benjamin Priest slumps

By Catherine Gunn  
Mr. Charles Wardle, chairman of Midlands components manufacturer Benjamin Priest & Sons (Holdings), has warned shareholders to expect a halved annual dividend for the year to March 31 in the light of an interim profits collapse from £1.2m to just £40,000 before tax.

The present, final quarter, is usually the group's best trading period and the full year outcome depends heavily upon it. The interim dividend has been maintained but the total payout is likely to be no more than 4.85p gross against 9.71p. Redundancy costs approaching £250,000 have been provided for in the first half and none are expected in the second.

## Exxon Corporation income clipped in last quarter

Exxon Corporation's fourth quarter net income was 1.1 per cent down at \$1,350m (£562m) or \$3.12 a share on total revenue of \$23,812m. (Last year 1979 fourth quarter, net income was \$1,356m or \$3.10 a share.)

The decline in net income was attributed to lower operating earnings which were partly offset by increased gains on foreign exchange translations. For the whole of 1980 net income was \$5,660m against \$4,290m on revenues of \$110,470m against \$84,970m.

## Video boom aids TDK

TDK Electronics Co. Japan's top manufacturer of ferrites and magnetic tapes, has reported record consolidated earnings for the year to November 30, after a brisk increase in sales of all products and a jump in exports.

TDK officials said that net profits were 21,273m yen (£43,68m), a 35.8 per cent jump from 15,666m yen a year before. Sales rose to 214,773m yen,

## Bahco hopes to agree higher bid for Record

By Catherine Gunn  
Fresh talks between Sheffield tool manufacturer Record Ridgway and bidder Bahco could lead to a higher, agreed cash offer for Record today.

Record Ridgway's board announced that the talks were taking place yesterday, and that shareholders are to take action on the existing extended offer from Bahco of 37p a share, pending an announcement it hopes to make today.

Record Ridgway's share jumped 6p to 43p yesterday on the news of the renewed talks, which were resumed late last week. Earlier this month they stood at a high of 46p after an unnamed rival bidder unexpectedly entered into discussions with Record. But that bidder, whose name was withdrawn suddenly upsetting the shares which on Monday this week were standing at the original Bahco offer price of 37p.

That offer valued Record at £4.13m and was resisted by the board as inadequate. Bahco broke down in December after nine months when the two groups could not agree on the proposed price. Bahco went ahead with its offer, but acceptances totalled only 19.3 per cent.

The first offer was extended until the end of this month with the proviso that further extensions could only last until February 22.

Record Ridgway made a £22,000 pretax loss in the year to September 28, 1980.

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1960-61	1961-62	1962-63	1963-64	1964-65	1965-66	1966-67	1967-68	1968-69	1969-70	1970-71	1971-72	1972-73	1973-74	1974-75	1975-76	1976-77	1977-78	1978-79	1979-80	1980-81	1981-82	1982-83	1983-84	1984-85	1985-86	1986-87	1987-88	1988-89	1989-90	1990-91	1991-92	1992-93	1993-94	1994-95	1995-96	1996-97	1997-98	1998-99	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	2029-30	2030-31	2031-32	2032-33	2033-34	2034-35	2035-36	2036-37	2037-38	2038-39	2039-40	2040-41	2041-42	2042-43	2043-44	2044-45	2045-46	2046-47	2047-48	2048-49	2049-50	2050-51	2051-52	2052-53	2053-54	2054-55	2055-56	2056-57	2057-58	2058-59	2059-60	2060-61	2061-62	2062-63	2063-64	2064-65	2065-66	2066-67	2067-68	2068-69	2069-70	2070-71	2071-72	2072-73	2073-74	2074-75	2075-76	2076-77	2077-78	2078-79	2079-80	2080-81	2081-82	2082-83	2083-84	2084-85	2085-86	2086-87	2087-88	2088-89	2089-90	2090-91	2091-92	2092-93	2093-94	2094-95	2095-96	2096-97	2097-98	2098-99	
Authorized Unit Trusts	1960-61	1961-62	1962-63	1963-64	1964-65	1965-66	1966-67	1967-68	1968-69	1969-70	1970-71	1971-72	1972-73	1973-74	1974-75	1975-76	1976-77	1977-78	1978-79	1979-80	1980-81	1981-82	1982-83	1983-84	1984-85	1985-86	1986-87	1987-88	1988-89	1989-90	1990-91	1991-92	1992-93	1993-94	1994-95	1995-96	1996-97	1997-98	1998-99	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	2029-30	2030-31	2031-32	2032-33	2033-34	2034-35	2035-36	2036-37	2037-38	2038-39	2039-40	2040-41	2041-42	2042-43	2043-44	2044-45	2045-46	2046-47	2047-48	2048-49	2049-50	2050-51	2051-52	2052-53	2053-54	2054-55	2055-56	2056-57	2057-58	2058-59	2059-60	2060-61	2061-62	2062-63	2063-64	2064-65	2065-66	2066-67	2067-68	2068-69	2069-70	2070-71	2071-72	2072-73	2073-74	2074-75	2075-76	2076-77	2077-78	2078-79	2079-80	2080-81	2081-82	2082-83	2083-84	2084-85	2085-86	2086-87	2087-88	2088-89	2089-90	2090-91	2091-92	2092-93	2093-94	2094-95	2095-96	2096-97	2097-98	2098-99
Authorized Unit Trusts	44.8	45.2	45.6	46.0	46.4	46.8	47.2	47.6	48.0	48.4	48.8	49.2	49.6	50.0	50.4	50.8	51.2	51.6	52.0	52.4	52.8	53.2	53.6	54.0	54.4	54.8	55.2	55.6	56.0	56.4	56.8	57.2	57.6	58.0	58.4	58.8	59.2	59.6	60.0	60.4	60.8	61.2	61.6	62.0	62.4	62.8	63.2	63.6	64.0	64.4	64.8	65.2	65.6	66.0	66.4	66.8	67.2	67.6	68.0	68.4	68.8	69.2	69.6	70.0	70.4	70.8	71.2	71.6	72.0	72.4	72.8	73.2	73.6	74.0	74.4	74.8	75.2	75.6	76.0	76.4	76.8	77.2	77.6	78.0	78.4	78.8	79.2	79.6	80.0	80.4	80.8	81.2	81.6	82.0	82.4	82.8	83.2	83.6	84.0	84.4	84.8	85.2	85.6	86.0	86.4	86.8	87.2	87.6	88.0	88.4	88.8	89.2	89.6	90.0	90.4	90.8	91.2	91.6	92.0	92.4	92.8	93.2	93.6	94.0	94.4	94.8	95.2	95.6	96.0	96.4	96.8	97.2	97.6	98.0	98.4	98.8	99.2	99.6	100.0
Authorized Unit Trusts	44.8	45.2	45.6	46.0	46.4	46.8	47.2	47.6	48.0	48.4	48.8	49.2	49.6	50.0	50.4	50.8	51.2	51.6	52.0	52.4	52.8	53.2	53.6	54.0	54.4	54.8	55.2	55.6	56.0	56.4	56.8	57.2	57.6	58.0	58.4	58.8	59.2	59.6	60.0	60.4	60.8	61.2	61.6	62.0	62.4	62.8	63.2	63.6	64.0	64.4	64.8	65.2	65.6	66.0	66.4	66.8	67.2	67.6	68.0	68.4	68.8	69.2	69.6	70.0	70.4	70.8	71.2	71.6	72.0	72.4	72.8	73.2	73.6	74.0	74.4	74.8	75.2	75.6	76.0	76.4	76.8	77.2	77.6	78.0	78.4	78.8	79.2	79.6	80.0	80.4	80.8	81.2	81.6	82.0	82.4	82.8	83.2	83.6	84.0	84.4	84.8	85.2	85.6	86.0	86.4	86.8	87.2	87.6	88.0	88.4	88.8	89.2	89.6	90.0	90.4	90.8	91.2	91.6	92.0	92.4	92.8	93.2	93.6	94.0	94.4	94.8	95.2	95.6	96.0	96.4	96.8	97.2	97.6	98.0	98.4	98.8	99.2	99.6	100.0
Authorized Unit Trusts	44.8	45.2	45.6	46.0	46.4	46.8	47.2	47.6	48.0	48.4	48.8	49.2	49.6	50.0	50.4	50.8	51.2	51.6	52.0	52.4	52.8	53.2	53.6	54.0	54.4	54.8	55.2	55.6	56.0	56.4	56.8	57.2	57.6	58.0	58.4	58.8	59.2	59.6	60.0	60.4	60.8	61.2	61.6	62.0	62.4	62.8	63.2	63.6	64.0	64.4	64.8	65.2	65.6	66.0	66.4	66.8	67.2	67.6	68.0	68.4	68.8	69.2	69.6	70.0	70.4	70.8	71.2	71.6	72.0	72.4	72.8	73.2	73.6	74.0	74.4	74.8	75.2	75.6	76.0	76.4	76.8	77.2	77.6	78.0	78.4	78.8	79.2	79.6	80.0	80.4	80.8	81.2	81.6	82.0	82.4	82.8	83.2	83.6	84.0	84.4	84.8	85.2	85.6	86.0	86.4	86.8	87.2	87.6	88.0	88.4	88.8	89.2	89.6	90.0	90.4	90.8	91.2	91.6	92.0	92.4	92.8	93.2	93.6	94.0	94.4	94.8	95.2	95.6	96.0	96.4	96.8	97.2	97.6	98.0	98.4	98.8	99.2	99.6	100.0
Authorized Unit Trusts	44.8	45.2	45.6	46.0	46.4	46.8	47.2	47.6	48.0	48.4	48.8	49.2	49.6	50.0	50.4	50.8	51.2	51.6	52.0	52.4	52.8	53.2	53.6	54.0	54.4	54.8	55.2	55.6	56.0	56.4	56.8	57.2	57.6	58.0	58.4	58.8	59.2	59.6	60.0	60.4	60.8	61.2	61.6	62.0	62.4	62.8	63.2	63.6	64.0	64.4	64.8	65.2	65.6	66.0	66.4	66.8	67.2	67.6	68.0	68.4	68.8	69.2	69.6	70.0	70.4	70.8	71.2	71.6	72.0	72.4	72.8	73.2	73.6	74.0	74.4	74.8	75.2	75.6	76.0	76.4	76.8	77.2	77.6	78.0	78.4	78.8	79.2	79.6	80.0	80.4	80.8	81.2	81.6	82.0	82.4	82.8	83.2	83.6	84.0	84.4	84.8	85.2	85.6	86.0	86.4	86.8	87.2	87.6	88.0	88.4	88.8	89.2	89.6	90.0	90.4	90.8	91.2	91.6	92.0	92.4	92.8	93.2	93.6	94.0	94.4	94.8	95.2	95.6	96.0	96.4	96.8	97.2	97.6	98.0	98.4	98.8	99.2	99.6	100.0
Authorized Unit Trusts	44.8	45.2	45.6	46.0	46.4	46.8	47.2	47.6	48.0	48.4	48.8	49.2	49.6	50.0	50.4	50.8	51.2	51.6	52.0	52.4	52.8	53.2	53.6	54.0	54.4	54.8	55.2	55.6	56.0	56.4	56.8	57.2	57.6	58.0	58.4	58.8	59.2	59.6	60.0	60.4	60.8	61.2	61.6	62.0	62.4	62.8	63.2	63.6	64.0	64.4	64.8	65.2	65.6	66.0	66.4	66.8	67.2	67.6	68.0	68.4	68.8	69.2	69.6	70.0	70.4	70.8	71.2	71.6	72.0	72.4	72.8	73.2	73.6	74.0	74.4	74.8	75.2	75.6	76.0	76.4	76.8	77.2	77.6	78.0	78.4	78.8	79.2	79.6	80.0	80.4	80.8	81.2	81.6	82.0	82.4	82.8	83.2	83.6	84.0	84.4	84.8	85.2	85.6	86.0	86.4	86.8	87.2	87.6	88.0	88.4	88.8	89.2	89.6	90.0	90.4	90.8	91.2	91.6	92.0	92.4	92.8	93.2	93.6	94.0	94.4	94.8	95.2	95.6	96.0	96.4	96.8	97.2	97.6	98.0	98.4	98.8	99.2	99.6	100.0
Authorized Unit Trusts	44.8	45.2	45.6	46.0	46.4	46.8	47.2	47.6	48.0	48.4	48.8	49.2	49.6	50.0	50.4	50.8	51.2	51.6	52.0	52.4	52.8	53.2	53.6	54.0	54.4	54.8	55.2	55.6	56.0	56.4	56.8	57.2	57.6	58.0	58.4	58.8	59.2	59.6	60.0	60.4	60.8	61.2	61.6	62.0	62.4	62.8	63.2	63.6	64.0	64.4	64.8	65.2	65.6	66.0	66.4	66.8	67.2	67.6	68.0	68.4	68.8	69.2	69.6	70.0	70.4	70.8	71.2	71.6	72.0	72.4	72.8	73.2	73.6	74.0	74.4	74.8	75.2	75.6	76.0	76.4	76.8	77.2	77.6	78.0	78.4	78.8	79.2	79.6	80.0	80.4	80.8	81.2	81.6	82.0	82.4	82.8	83.2	83.6	84.0	84.4	84.8	85.2	85.6	86.0	86.4	86.8	87.2	87.6	88.0	88.4	88.8	89.2	89.6	90.0	90.4	90.8	91.2	91.6	92.0	92.4	92.8	93.2	93.6	94.0	94.4	94.8	95.2	95.6	96.0	96.4	96.8	97.2	97.6	98.0	98.4	98.8	99.2	99.6	100.0
Authorized Unit Trusts	44.8	45.2	45.6	46.0	46.4	46.8	47.2	47.6	48.0	48.4	48.8	49.2	49.6	50.0	50.4	50.8	51.2	51.6	52.0	52.4	52.8	53.2	53.6	54.0	54.4	54.8	55.2	55.6	56.0	56.4	56.8	57.2	57.6	58.0	58.4	58.8	59.2	59.6	60.0	60.4	60.8	61.2	61.6	62.0	62.4	62.8	63.2	63.6	64.0	64.4	64.8	65.2	65.6	66.0	66.4	66.8	67.2	67.6	68.0	68.4	68.8	69.2	69.6	70.0	70.4	70.8	71.2	71.6	72.0	72.4	72.8	73.2	73.6	74.0	74.4	74.8	75.2	75.6	76.0	76.4	76.8	77.2	77.6	78.0	78.4	78.8	79.2	79.6	80.0	80.4	80.8	81.2	81.6	82.0	82.4	82.8	83.2	83.6	84.0	84.4	84.8	85.2	85.6	86.0	86.4	86.8	87.2	87.6	88.0	88.4	88.8	89.2	89.6	90.0	90.4	90.8	91.2	91.6	92.0	92.4	92.8	93.2	93.6	94.0	94.4	94.8	95.2	95.6	96.0	96.4	96.8	97.2	97.6	98.0	98.4	98.8	99.2	99.6	100.0
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مَكْنَزٌ مِنَ الْأَصْلِ



هكذا من الأصل

## Property

International  
trend persists  
in Belgravia

World recession and the avages of inflation appear to have little to dampen the international property market. Houses which attract the attention of the very rich will not draw large crowds of potential buyers, but here are enough well-heeled clients visiting Britain's estate agencies for deals to be clinched.

Knight Frank & Rutley, the London agents in conjunction with John German Ralph Pay, are convinced they will not have to wait long before a buyer is found for what must be one of

the capital's most expensive properties to come on the market for quite a while.

An Iranian businessman has decided to sell 28 Wilton Crescent, in Belgravia, after having spent almost two years and more than £500,000 on refurbishing the four-storey house. In all that time he has never lived in the house but has resided in the mews cottage at the rear.

Refurbishment, which has been painstakingly undertaken by Sir Basil Spence, is virtually completed and the property is ready to move into.

The asking price for the house and the cottage is £1.75m and the agents believe this is the highest price sought in the area. The agents already report interest from foreign buyers.

The main house has three reception rooms; five bedrooms, four bathrooms fitted with Italian marble, a panelled library and a self-contained flat.

At basement level the house has its own private swimming pool, a jacuzzi, sauna, steam bath and impulse shower. There is also an area fitted out as a gymnasium which can also be used

as a discotheque, because it has a sprung wooden floor. Another interesting feature is the walk-in strong room in the library behind a false book case.

There is a highly sophisticated security system with a closed circuit television.

At the rear of the house and connected by a 60ft roof terrace is the mews cottage which could provide office facilities, as a telex is already installed.

It has a large reception room, three bedrooms, three bathrooms, kitchen, sunroom, all decorated to a high standard, secretary's office and an integral garage with parking for four cars.

The house and cottage are part of the Grosvenor estate and are offered on a 55 year lease. Both are ready for immediate occupation.

For those with more modest tastes and incomes, a slightly unusual house is on offer through Braxtons the Battle agents. Built by James Burton, the creator and builder of Regency St Leonards, the Clock House at Maze Hills, St Leonards on Sea, Sussex, was used as his own home. It is a

Grade 2 listed building, completed in 1928 and resembles a small fortress.

The agents say that the house has been completely modernized and refurbished and stands in about a one third of an acre which has been landscaped providing a great deal of privacy.

It has two main reception rooms and 4/5 bedrooms and is on the market at an asking price of £82,000.

Another very different house is the Embassy Suite, situated immediately by the first fairway of the Gleneagles golf course, Perthshire, which is part of a small discreet development partly hidden among the trees which surround the course.

It has three double bedrooms with en suite bathrooms, a study/sitting room, a large reception room and a dining area. Panoramic views of the golf course from the rooftop terrace are the strong selling point of the development.

Strutt & Parker are the agents and invite offers above £195,000.

Baron Phillips

Close to £150,000 has been paid for Mixbury Hall, Mixbury, near Brackley, Northants, through the Banbury office of Lane Fox & Partners.



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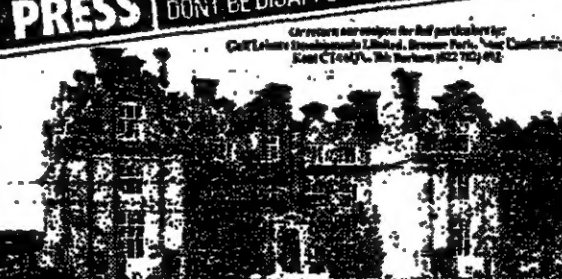
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The successful applicant for this position must be fluent in both Spanish and English. A good general education, first class secretarial skills and a flair for precision and neatness is also essential. Applicants must be able to work under considerable pressure at certain times of the year when deadlines have to be met.

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A good salary will be paid with full relocation expenses and one return air ticket per year included as additional benefits. Interviews for this position will be held in London in mid-February and applications should be submitted in writing before February 10 to: The Vice President, Finance, H.C.I. Ltd., P.O. Box 1888, Hamilton 5, Bermuda.

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## PERSONAL CHOICE

## Broadcasting Guide

Edited by Peter Dear

## TELEVISION

## BBC 1

9.05 am For Schools. College: Technical Studies—Sand Casting; 9.35 Maths Angles; 9.55 Wearing the Right Clothes; 10.12 Words and Pictures; 10.30 Home Economics; 11.05 Everyday Maths; 11.25 You and Me (not Schools); 11.40 English; 12.05 German. Closes down at 12.30.

12.45 pm News.

1.00 Public Mail at One. On the programme today is Ian Lyon with information on cheaper air fares and suggestions for holidays in the Far East. In addition a well known personality will prepare their favourite dish in the regular feature, Star Chef. 1.45 Trumpton (r).

2.01 For Schools. College: Shoes in all shapes and sizes. 2.18 Twentieth Century History. 2.40 Read On 1.

3.00 Speak for Yourself. Advice for people who want to apply for a refund for faulty goods (shown yesterday on BBC 2). 3.25 Della Smith's Country Cookery. Soups and Soups are the subject of this

## BBC 2

10.20 am Gharbar. Advice for Asian women. Closes down at 10.45.

11.00 Play School. Floella Benjamin and Fred Harris are the presenters and the story is Ted. The Old Tractor. Closes down at 11.25.

5.30 pm Harold Lloyd. The bespectacled comedian wins a live turkey in Hot Water and then is chased by police when they find an illegal gambling establishment in Bumping into Broadway.

5.55 6 Up. The fourth of ten films for young people. In this evening's programme they give their views on drugs and drink to Rowdy Yates of Lifeline Project.

6.20 The Master Game. Jeremy James presents the fourth game of the 13 match competition. It is

## THAMES

9.30 am For Schools: Craft activities for infants; 9.50 My World—Landmarks; 10.10 Life with a Victorian; 10.30 Music—drum instruments; 11.05 Fish and fishing methods; 11.17 Life in France; 11.34 The English Programme.

12.00 Copsa Castle. Adventures of puppets who live in a medieval castle (r).

12.10 The Rainbow. Educational puppets with guest Claire Woodford. 12.30 About Britain: Serenade for a City. Some of the musicians who played at the Plymouth 400 Festival last year to celebrate the circumnavigation of the globe by Sir Francis Drake.

1.00 News. 1.20 Thames News. 1.30 Crown Court. The final episode in the trial of a woman who is charged with pushing her friend's husband down stairs (r).

2.00 After Noon News. Tim Sainsbury MP talks about his holiday in Cornwall (r). But: Stairs Tackle tells us about the mood of Reagan's America and

there is a film about an African village in the depths of darkest Africa. 2.45 Fantasy Island. A dreadful series in which people are given the chance to act out their fantasies with guest Ricardo Montalban. 3.45 Movies Memories with Roy Hudd. His guest this afternoon is Charles Robinson. The French Circus Expedition, the first motorized crossing of Africa, is featured this evening (see Personal Choice).

8.00 The Magic of Dance. Margot Fonteyn recalls the history of

second programme of culinary arts. 3.55 Play School (shown earlier on BBC 2). 4.20 Undercover Elephant. The sleuth with the long nose disguises himself as a pirate in this afternoon's cartoon adventure. 4.25 Jackanory. Joanna David with the third part of By the Shores of Silver Lake by Laura Ingalls Wilder. 4.40 Take Hart Tony and his little friend Morph have another busy day. 5.00 John Craven's Newsworld. World-wide news for young people. 5.05 The Strange Case of Adelaide Harris. Part five of the six-part serial (r). 5.40 News read by Richard Baker. 5.55 Regional News. 6.20 National News. Closes.

6.55 Triangle. Another episode in the serial about a North Sea ferry and her crew. 7.20 Film: Hostile Witness (1968). starring Ray Milland and Sylvia Sims. A barrister lands in the dock after he swears vengeance on the person who killed his daughter in a hit-and-run incident. 9.00 A Party Political Broadcast on behalf of the Liberal Party.

between Lothar Schmid of West Germany and Hein Donner of the Netherlands. 6.50 Grapevine. A magazine programme featuring self-help and community action presented by Helene Hayman. This evening we hear from a group of youngsters who are hard-headed and are carrying on a campaign for a youth club on their estate and in the comment section of the programme Michael Newman, a member of the Workers' Men's College in London, makes a plea for adult education. 7.20 News with a sub-titled synopsis for hard-of-hearing viewers. 7.30 Travellers in Time. Duncan Carse introduces the second of six programmes on early exploration. The French Circus Expedition, the first motorized crossing of Africa, is featured this evening (see Personal Choice).

8.00 The Magic of Dance. Margot Fonteyn recalls the history of

under 30 minutes: 7.30 Coronation Street. It's christening time for the Tilsley's baby. Will everything go smoothly? 7.50 News. Variety show featuring, among others, some of the cast from Oklahoma! Ray Elington, Anna Dawson and John Peel. 8.15 News. 8.30 News. 8.50 News. 9.00 News. 9.15 News. 9.30 News. 9.45 News. 10.00 News. 10.15 News. 10.30 News. 10.45 News. 11.00 News. 11.15 News. 11.30 News. 11.45 News. 12.00 News. 12.15 News. 12.30 News. 12.45 News. 1.00 News. 1.15 News. 1.30 News. 1.45 News. 2.00 News. 2.15 News. 2.30 News. 2.45 News. 3.00 News. 3.15 News. 3.30 News. 3.45 News. 4.00 News. 4.15 News. 4.30 News. 4.45 News. 5.00 News. 5.15 News. 5.30 News. 5.45 News. 6.00 News. 6.15 News. 6.30 News. 6.45 News. 7.00 News. 7.15 News. 7.30 News. 7.45 News. 8.00 News. 8.15 News. 8.30 News. 8.45 News. 9.00 News. 9.15 News. 9.30 News. 9.45 News. 10.00 News. 10.15 News. 10.30 News. 10.45 News. 11.00 News. 11.15 News. 11.30 News. 11.45 News. 12.00 News. 12.15 News. 12.30 News. 12.45 News. 1.00 News. 1.15 News. 1.30 News. 1.45 News. 2.00 News. 2.15 News. 2.30 News. 2.45 News. 3.00 News. 3.15 News. 3.30 News. 3.45 News. 4.00 News. 4.15 News. 4.30 News. 4.45 News. 5.00 News. 5.15 News. 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